Wednesday, January 21, 2026 No 21 ₹7

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

SC slams Maneka for criticising stray dog orders

Page 10

DKS waiting, but patience isn't permanent: Suresh

Says Rahul Gandhi had assured right decision at the right time

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar is 'patiently waiting' for the Congress top brass to decide on the leadership dispute, his brother D K Suresh said Tuesday, adding that patience cannot be permanent.

Speaking to reporters, Suresh delivered what came across as a clear message to the high command, mounting pressure on top leaders to decide fast on his brother's chief ministerial ambition.

"By God's will, let's see what happens. Everything has an end. In politics, nothing is permanent, neither power nor patience," Suresh said.

Suresh, the president of Bangalore Milk Union Ltd, said the party had asked Shivakumar to have patience.

> I'm sure the party will decide by taking everyone into confidence. Our target is the 2028 election, for which the party has to fight unitedly. As the state party president, Shivakumar must demonstrate discipline, which he's doing.
>
> DK Suresh

"Rahul Gandhi said in Mysuru that the right decision will come at the right time," he said. "Keeping party interests mind, Shivakumar is patiently waiting for a decision."

According to Suresh, the CM's position isn't easy to get. "Even panchayat chairpersons don't give up. They keep asking for time. In politics, trust is important," he said.

Suresh said Rahul will decide by seeing the big picture. "I'm sure the party will decide by taking everyone into confidence," he said. "Our target is the 2028 election, for which the party has to fight unitedly. As state party chief, Shivakumar must demonstrate discipline, which he's doing."

Hailing Shivakumar for his loyalty, Suresh said his brother does not lionise individuals. "Some are loyal to individuals. Some are there just for power. But Shivakumar has suffered pain for the party, regardless of whether or not he had power," he said. "Shivakumar is being patient." Suresh reiterated his statement that Shivakumar will become CM "if he is fated." On Monday, on his return from Delhi, Shivakumar said, "time will answer everything".

Meanwhile, CM Siddaramaiah said he will visit Delhi "when called".

'We're taking a step back with ballot papers'

Former Bangalore Rural MP DK Suresh on Tuesday questioned the use of ballot papers instead of EVMs for the Bengaluru civic polls. "The party high command has to decide if taking a step back is right," said Suresh. Page 5

Quickly

5 killed, 3 hurt in road accident near Raichur

Five people were killed and three seriously injured in a head-on collision between two jeeps near Kannari Cross on the Sindhanur-Siruguppa National Highway on Tuesday. The injured have been admitted to Sindhanur Government Hospital. Page 5

Kokrajhar tense after violence

A conflict over the death of two persons in a road accident in Assam's Kokrajhar district took a communal turn on Tuesday. Police had to fire tear gas shells and use batons as protesters set fire to a few houses. Mobile internet was suspended in the area.

No home food for Darshan, Pavithra

The HC on Tuesday stayed a trial court order directing the prison officials to provide home-cooked food to film star Darshan, Pavithra Gowda and others accused in the Renukaswamy murder case. Page 3B

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KITCHEN INTEL

Biryani trail unravels Kishtwar terror logistics

Supply chain under scanner after Kashmir encounter

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

CRPF personnel on their way to the site of an encounter between security forces and terrorists, in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir, on Tuesday. PTI

FOOD IN THE FOREST

- Rice, eggs, ghee lead investigators to civilian links
- Full-fledged kitchen found in Kishtwar hideout as search op widens
- Sources say cooking biryani is not survival behaviour; it indicates planning
- A soldier was killed and seven others injured in the encounter

"Where did the rice, eggs and ghee come from?" former Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Shesh Pal Vaid asked after terrorists were found relishing biryani inside a forest hideout in Kishtwar district — a discovery that has led to detentions and a widening probe into local terror logistics.

Several suspects have been detained as a massive search operation entered its third day on Tuesday in Sonnar village near Mandral-Singhpora, where one army soldier was killed and seven others injured when security forces were ambushed with grenades and heavy gunfire on Sunday.

The operation followed intelligence inputs that terrorists were sheltering in the Chatroo belt. Security sources said the terrorists had established a fortified hideout and were not merely passing through. "Cooking biryani is not survival behaviour. It indicates planning, comfort and sustained supply," a source said.

The encounter turned chaotic after grenades were hurled at the search team, disrupting the cordon.

"The forces were split and fired upon from two or possibly three directions," the source said, explaining how the militants exploited gaps to escape into dense forest cover.

Vaid said the hideout functioned as a base stocked with winter rations. "This was a full-fledged kitchen. These things cannot come from Pakistan," he said. "Someone purchased them, transported them and stocked them."

He noted that similar recoveries have been made at least four or five times in recent months, underlining the role of overground workers (OGWs). "In basic policing, something is missing. We need to go back to the grassroots," he said, recalling how senior officers earlier camped in vulnerable areas until support networks were dismantled.

Several suspects from nearby villages have been picked up for questioning, particularly over food supplies and movement in the area, reports said. However, there was no official confirmation of arrests directly linked to the hideout.

The Chatroo-Mandral belt of the Chenab Valley has seen intermittent militant activity after years of relative calm. Security officials say militants here rely heavily on local supply lines to survive difficult terrain and evade detection.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, and Inspector General of CRPF (Jammu), R Gopala Krishna Rao, have reached the encounter site and are camping there along with senior army officers to supervise ongoing operations.

As search teams continue to comb the forests, investigators say the most revealing clues may come not from weapons, but from everyday items left behind. Rice bags, eggs and ghee point to shops, carriers and middlemen — a civilian trail that could explain how terrorists were able to live, cook and wait undetected in the forests of Kishtwar.

Man killed over old debt of Rs 22 in Telangana

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

In a shocking incident, a man was killed over an old debt of mere Rs 22 in Telangana's Medak. The accused, Mahesh, was arrested on Tuesday for the murder of his roommate, Mohammad Siraj.

The duo had migrated from Uttar Pradesh to Medak for daily wage work and would habitually sip liquor in the evening, after the day's work. On January 15, they were sitting under a tree and drinking liquor when Mahesh asked Siraj to repay Rs 22, which led to a heated argument.

In a drunken rage, Mahesh slammed Siraj's head against the tree. He then struck his head with a stone, killing him on the spot before fleeing.

"Siraj and Mahesh, along with another person, shared a room in the Chegunta police limits of Medak district. They drank almost daily after work. On Sankranti, while sipping liquor under a tree, a quarrel erupted over the Rs 22 debt Siraj owed to Mahesh. Mahesh slammed Siraj against the tree, then hit him with a stone, causing death on the spot. He fled later," said Tupran DSP Narendra Goud.

Locals spotted the dead body and alerted police. Chegunta police registered the case on a complaint from their roommate, Ravi Kumar.

Supreme court to examine ED's power to file writ petitions

Kerala, TN challenge agency's locus standi in high courts

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

USE OF ARTICLE 226

- SC issues notice on states' plea against ED's use of Article 226
- Court to decide if ED can be a 'juristic person'
- After gold smuggling probe, states question agency's right to move high courts

The Supreme Court on Tuesday decided to examine whether the Enforcement Directorate (ED) can file writ petitions before high courts under Article 226 of the Constitution to enforce its rights as a "juristic person".

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma issued notice to the agency on petitions filed by the Kerala and Tamil Nadu governments.

The state governments have challenged the validity of a Kerala High Court order that upheld the central agency's locus standi to file writ petitions under Article 226.

A 'juristic person' is a legal entity recognised by the law and entitled to rights and duties in the same way as a human being.

On September 26, 2025, the Kerala High Court upheld a single-judge order that stayed the judicial inquiry into the ED's probe of the 2020 gold smuggling case through diplomatic channels.

The judicial commission had been set up following allegations that ED officials coerced the accused to implicate political leaders, including the chief minister, in the smuggling case. The HC dismissed an appeal filed by the Kerala government challenging the single judge's interim stay.

Earlier, on August 11, 2021, the single bench had ruled that the ED had locus standi and granted an interim stay on the state government's notification. The case arose from a May 7, 2021, notification under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952, ordering a judicial inquiry against ED officials accused of coercing the accused to name political leaders.

Former High Court judge Justice VK Mohanan was appointed to head the inquiry commission. It was tasked with examining evidence, including an audio clip attributed to the accused Swapna Suresh and a letter by accused Sandeep Nair, both alleging coercion by ED officers. The ED deputy director moved the high court, questioning the state's authority to order an inquiry against the agency.

Tamil Nadu also filed a transfer petition to shift a writ petition pending before Madras High Court to the Supreme Court under Article 139A of the Constitution, arguing that the ED, being a wing of the Ministry of Finance, is not a separate body or statutory authority and cannot misuse Article 226 to raise disputes against the state government instead of approaching the Supreme court under Article 131 of the Constitution.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal represented Kerala.

Assam's Kokrajhar tense after road accident triggers violence

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

A conflict over the death of two persons allegedly involved in a road accident in western Assam's Kokrajhar district took a communal turn on Tuesday, forcing the administration to seek the Army's help and suspend mobile internet in Kokrajhar and Chirang districts.

Police had to fire tear gas shells and use batons as protesters belonging to both Adivasi and Bodo communities took to the streets, a section set fire to a few houses and even blocked the highway on Tuesday.

According to police, the tension started after a vehicle with three Bodo persons had allegedly hit two Adivasi men on Monday evening. Angry over the incident, the three youths were attacked by Adivasi villagers. One person died then, while another succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday. The SUV in which they were travelling was set on fire.

This infuriated many Bodos, who staged a protest and blocked the highway adjacent to Karigaon. Tyres were burnt on the highway and the police outpost was also attacked by protesters. Several persons were injured in police action to control the mob.

Kokrajhar falls under the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). The council is now governed by the Bodoland People's Front, an ally of the NDA.

Internet suspended

In two separate statements, the state home department said mobile internet was temporarily suspended in Kokrajhar and Chirang, fearing the possibility of the use of social media to foment further violence.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Rapid Action Force has been deployed, while the Army was also called in to control the situation.

At least 18 people belonging to Adivasi community have been arrested, and efforts were on to nab more, an official said.

HIGHWAY HURDLES

Vehicle transfer NOC only after clearing toll dues

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a run-up to a barrier-free tolling system, the government has amended rules to make it mandatory for vehicle owners to clear all toll plaza dues before selling their vehicle or obtaining a fitness certificate.

The changes aim to enhance fee compliance on national highways, particularly with the new Multi-Lane Free Flow tolling system.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified the amended 'Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 2026'.

"The amendments are aimed at improving user fee compliance, enhancing the efficiency of electronic toll collection, and discouraging user fee evasion on national highways," the ministry said in a statement

"These amendments will also help in user fee collection after the implementation of the Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) system that will enable barrier-less tolling on the National Highway network," it said.

The ministry said no NOC will be given for vehicle transfer, fitness renewal and permits with pending toll dues.

Under the amended rules, a new definition of 'unpaid user fee' has been introduced, and it refers to the user fee payable for the use of a national highway section, where the electronic toll collection system has recorded the vehicle's passage, but the applicable fee has not been received in accordance with the National Highways Act, 1956.

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The Power of Good

No going back on Greenland, says Trump

EU chief pushes for a new, independent Europe

Page 11

India, EU on cusp of historic trade deal: von der Leyen

Likely to be announced on Jan 27 during bloc chief's India visit

NEW DELHI, DHNS

After nearly two decades of negotiations, India and the 27-nation bloc European Union (EU) are likely to ink a free-trade agreement next week that will lower tariffs and ease non-tariff barriers to boost trade.

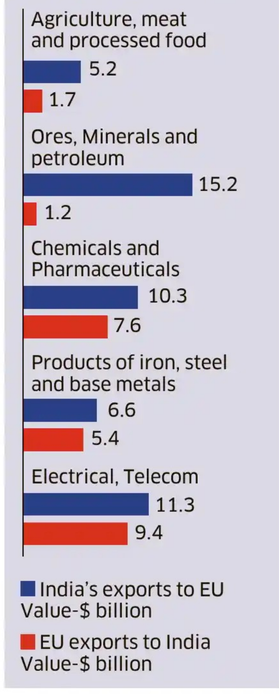
European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Tuesday said India and the EU are on the cusp of a "historic trade agreement".

"I will travel to India. There is still work to do. But we are on the cusp of a historic trade agreement. Some call it the mother of all deals. One that would create a market of two billion people, accounting for almost a quarter of global GDP," von der Leyen said in a televised address at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Von der Leyen and European Council president Antonio Costa are scheduled to visit India from January 25 to 27 as chief guests for the Republic Day. They are scheduled to hold summit-level talks with the Indian leadership led by PM Narendra Modi. According to top official sources, the trade deal is likely to be announced at the India-EU Summit on January 27.

▸ Trade, Page 6

INDIA-EU TRADE



> Some call it the mother of all deals. One that would create a market of two billion people, accounting for almost a quarter of global GDP.
>
> **Ursula von der Leyen,** European Commission President

Investors take a Rs 9.8L-cr hit as markets tumble

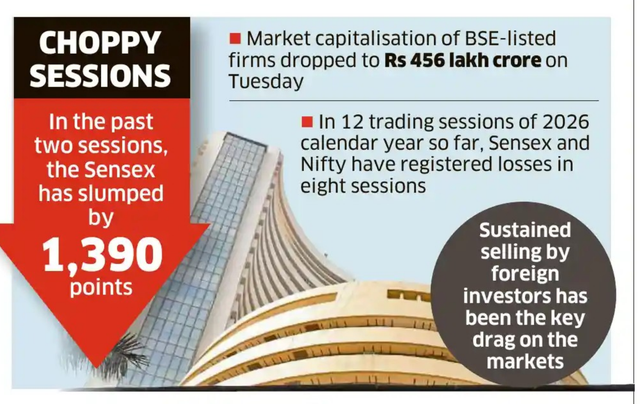
Gold, silver hit new high; rupee falls to a record low

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Indian equities benchmark indices slumped on Tuesday leading to erosion of nearly Rs 9.8 lakh crore in investors' wealth as renewed global trade uncertainties and uneven earnings signals weighed heavily on market sentiments.

The 30-stock Sensex of the BSE slumped by 1,065.71 points or 1.28% to 82,180.47 points, the lowest level in three months. The wider Nifty 50 of the NSE dipped 1.38% or 353 points to 25,232.50 points.

In the past two sessions, the Sensex has slumped by 1,390 points or 1.7%. The market capitalisation of the BSE-listed firms dropped to Rs 456 lakh crore on Tuesday from Rs 468 lakh crore on Friday, leading to a Rs 12-lakh crore decline. On Tuesday alone, nearly Rs 9.8 lakh crore worth of investors' wealth was wiped out.


CHOPPY SESSIONS
In the past two sessions, the Sensex has slumped by 1,390 points
Market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms dropped to Rs 456 lakh crore on Tuesday
In 12 trading sessions of 2026 calendar year so far, Sensex and Nifty have registered losses in eight sessions
Sustained selling by foreign investors has been the key drag on the markets

Core sector growth at 4-month high

India's eight key infrastructure sectors registered a four-month high growth rate of 3.7% in December last year, driven by a jump in the output of fertiliser and cement, according to official data released on Tuesday.

Details on Page 12

In the 12 trading sessions of 2026 calendar year so far, Sensex and Nifty 50 registered losses in eight sessions. Sustained selling by foreign investors has been the key drag on the markets. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have pulled out around $2.7 billion from the Indian markets this month. Total outflows in 2025-26 so far stand at $6.6 billion.

"Market sentiment is subdued due to mixed corporate earnings and concerns on geopolitical tensions and global trade developments," said Ajit Mishra, senior VP-Research at Religare Broking.

▸ Market, Page 6

State police can probe graft case against central staff: SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Police powers

- Relation between the CBI and the state police is supplementary to each other
- Offences under PC Act are also cognisable and can, therefore, be investigated by the state police
- The only rider is that the investigation can be done only by a police officer of the rank specified in Section 17 of the PC Act

The Supreme Court has held that the state police can investigate bribery offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act against central government employees without approval from the Central Bureau of Investigation.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Satish Chandra Sharma pointed out that Section 17 of the PC Act does not exclude the state police or a special agency of the state from registering a crime or investigating cases relating to bribery and misconduct against central government employees.

Dismissing a petition filed by Nawal Kishore Meena, the court on January 19 upheld the Rajasthan High Court's judgment of October 3, 2025, which said the ACB (anti-corruption bureau) of Rajasthan has the jurisdiction to register the criminal case under provisions of the PC Act despite the fact that the accused is a central government employee.

The court said that though the law and order, including investigation of different criminal cases, is a state subject and generally such matters are being investigated by the state, yet the relation between the CBI and the state police is supplementary to each other. And according to the CBI constitution and inter se arrangement between CBI and state police, there are several areas where the CBI and the police require cooperation.

▸ Police, Page 6

DGP Ramachandra Rao suspended for 'obscene conduct'

BENGALURU, DHNS: A day after viral videos purportedly showed DGP K Ramachandra Rao acting in an obscene manner, the government suspended the 1993-batch IPS officer on Tuesday.

Home Minister G Parameshwara indicated that the officer could even be dismissed.

The videos purportedly show the DGP hugging and kissing women while in office. He has called the videos 'fabricated' and vowed to take legal action.

The Home Department has directed the cyber police to verify the authenticity of the video.

Details on Page 5

Chief secy calls out dearth of AI talent

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh called out the dearth of AI talent in Karnataka while speaking at the AI Impact Pre-Summit Working Group Meeting at the IISc on Tuesday.

Shalini Rajneesh

"I'm sorry to say, I have been hunting for people to work on my AI project. It's been very difficult. Even the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB) says they're not able to supply data scientists, data analysts and AI analysts," she said, stressing the changes that need to be brought within the state's curriculum.

"It's not just about changes that need to be brought at the higher education level. Even at the higher secondary level, how do we bring in more capacity-building and more orientation of IT-based skills that are going to be required in the days to come?" she said.

Details on Page 4

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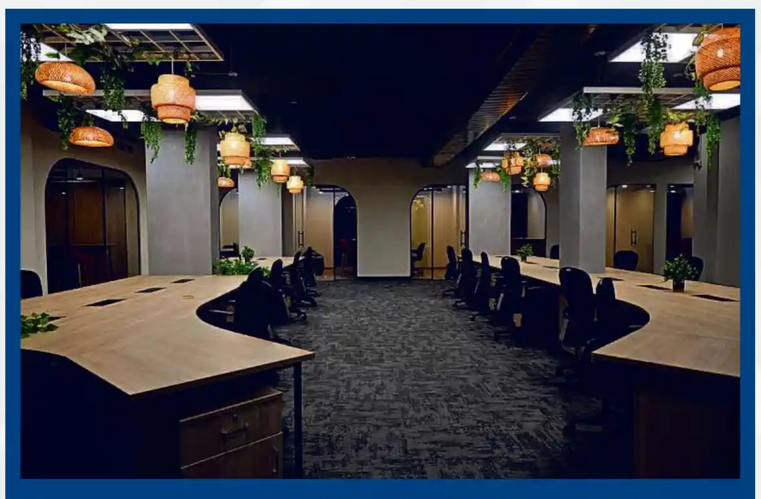
Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot
Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka



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SCAN THE CODE TO LOCATE US

Industry-academia collaborations crucial for driving innovation, says former ISRO director

BENGALURU, DHNS

"Innovation becomes more prolific and impactful when educational institutions and industries collaborate. Through such partnerships, it is possible to find solutions to societal problems," said Mylswamy Annadurai, former director of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Speaking at the inauguration of the 'BBC 2.0 Catalyst Program' on Tuesday, Annadurai emphasised that while the healthcare sector has seen significant facility upgrades, the rising patient load calls for advanced technological interventions.

Organised by the Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre (BBC) in collaboration with K-Tech, the programme aims to bridge the gap between skill development, innovation, and self-employment.

Highlighting Bengaluru's strengths in the IT and BT sectors, the veteran scientist said the city has the potential to become a global hub for innovation-led development.

He also pointed to the agricultural sector, noting India's leadership in banana cultivation. "Banana pseudostems, often discarded as waste, can be recycled through research-based solutions, creating value for farmers," he added.

Drawing a parallel with India's lunar missions, Annadurai said that while many nations attempted lunar exploration, Chandrayaan's unique perspective earned global acclaim. "India is moving toward the peak of the global innovation ecosystem. With the right mix of talent and technology, we can deliver transformative missions," he said.

Manjula N, Secretary, Department of IT-BT, and Rahul Sharanappa Sankanur, Managing Director, BBC, outlined the centre's new initiatives. These include the 'Beyond Bengaluru' programme and collaborations with NABARD and RKVY to promote agri-innovation. Plans for a Bangalore Biobank and a Data Bank were also announced.

Mohamed Adil AA, Managing Director of BBC, and Dr Uma Nambiar, Director of IISc Medical Foundation, were also present, according to a news release.

Draft rolls show drop in ward size ahead of polls

Electoral changes may see more rebels, independents

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The draft electoral rolls released for the Bengaluru civic body polls indicate a sharp reduction in the size of individual wards, a change that could alter the dynamics of the city's upcoming municipal elections, long dominated by national parties.

According to the rolls, the city has 88.91 lakh voters spread across 369 wards, bringing the average electorate per ward to about 24,000.

The data also shows that about 71 wards — mostly in the Bengaluru Central City Corporation — have fewer than 20,000 voters, while around 30 wards, nearly half of them in the Bengaluru West City Corporation, have more than 30,000 voters.

Political observers say the smaller voter base lowers the entry barrier for candidates, potentially increasing the number of rebels and independents.

Some, however, are sceptical, noting that ward delimitation and reservation are often skewed to favour candidates representing the ruling party in the state.

Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad said compact wards would make corporators more accessible and help speed up grievance redressal. At the same time, he noted that larger parties may face discontent among aspirants during ticket distribution, though the increase in the number of wards could help diffuse rebellion.

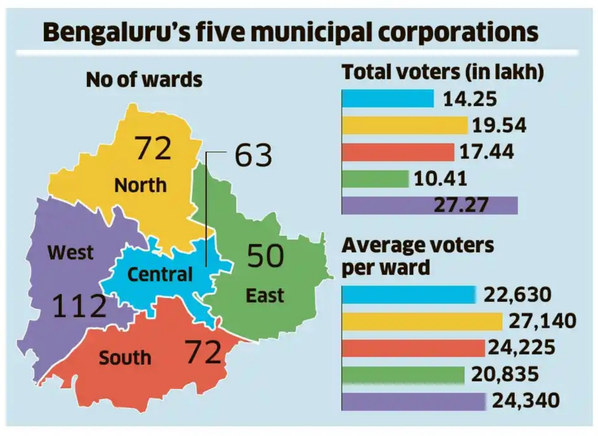
Ashwin Mahesh, who has worked closely with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), said candidates may now need roughly 4,000 votes to secure a win, compared with 6,000–7,000 votes in previous municipal elections. This, he said, could enable communities with sizeable voter bases to gain representation.

New political outfits such as the Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP), founded by individuals formerly associated with the Bangalore Apartments' Federation, are making their electoral debut with the hope of making a difference.

Mohan Dasari, a resident of CV Raman Nagar, said fresh faces would stand a chance only if voters focus on candidates rather than parties.

"Many people do not differentiate between municipal, Assembly and parliamentary elections. If civic body polls are fought in the name of national leaders, how will ward-level representation change?" he asked, adding that winning remains difficult even in smaller wards.

He also said money power continues to play a significant role in Bengaluru's elections.



East Corporation invites public inputs for 2026–27 budget

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru East City Corporation has invited public suggestions for programmes and schemes to be included in the 2026-27 budget.

Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh said preparations for the budget were underway.

"I appeal to the public to offer suggestions for preparing a comprehensive budget for the East City Corporation, with focus on infrastructure, public health and safety, environmental conservation, social welfare, transparent governance, and initiatives that respond to citizens' needs," he stated.

Individual citizens, citizen groups, Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs), environmental activists and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are urged to send suggestions.

Deadline: Jan 27

Suggestions can be dropped in the suggestion box at the office of the Deputy Controller (Finance), Bengaluru East City Corporation, Commercial Complex, Ground Floor, Opposite Phoenix Marketcity, RHB Colony, Mahadevapura.

Citizens can also mail suggestions to acfmahadevapura@gmail.com.

All suggestions must be submitted by January 27.

Pipeline work strands walkers on Double Road

Uneven pavements near Shanthinagar bus depot raise safety fears

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

What was meant to be a week-long pipeline replacement by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has left commuters on Double Road (KH Road) near the Shanthinagar Bus Station navigating broken pavements and rubble, forcing them onto the busy road and raising safety concerns.

The work to replace ageing water mains in Shanthinagar has disrupted the stretch near the BMTC bus depot service road, leaving footpaths uneven and buried under debris.

Contractors had assured the disruption would last a week, but locals say the stretch has remained dug up for months, with little progress on safe pedestrian access.

"With the pavement gone, we have no choice but to walk on the edge of the road," said Suresh Kumar, a senior citizen. "Buses and cars come fast. Every day, it feels like an accident waiting to happen."

A local auto driver said: "It is dangerous during peak hours. People step onto the road without warning. I have had near-misses with two-wheelers trying to overtake."

Meena, who works nearby, said: "I saw an elderly man slip on the rubble and almost fall into the traffic path. There is no safe place to walk. Also, as there is a turn towards the BMTC depot service road after the rubble-strewn stretch, buses enter the road fast and quickly make a turn which might be very dangerous for walkers."

A local traffic policeman at the junction confirmed the risk, noting that while the nearby signal somewhat slows traffic, pedestrians are often forced into harm's way as they avoid the broken footpaths. "It is very risky and difficult for pedestrians to navigate this path."

With heavy traffic and limited walking space, pedestrians say urgent measures such as temporary walkways and better debris management are needed before a serious accident occurs.

With footpaths broken, pedestrians step onto the road, putting themselves in harm's way. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

MLA steps in

Speaking to DH, Shanthinagar MLA NA Haris promised to check with the authorities and issue instructions to ensure the work is completed as quickly as possible.

NA Haris

39 ready-to-move in houses sealed over 'violations'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru East City Corporation has sealed 39 houses in Saravana Layout, Horamavu, for building without plan approvals, violating setback rules and encroaching on stormwater drains.

However, the action came only after the developer completed the row houses and some buyers had moved in.

During a visit to the layout on Tuesday, a *DH* reporter found the entrance gates of over a dozen houses sealed, while a few remained untouched.

A senior East Corporation official said the builder constructed the houses without plan approval.

The official noted that setback rules had been violated, with the first notice issued in November and the next in early January.

Homeowners stunned

People at the site said the notices where a shock as the houses were ready for possession.

"No 'B' khata property gets building plan approvals. This is a legal problem for all property owners in Bengaluru. The rest of the records are in order. The claim of stormwater encroachment is also not true," one said.

The land developer was not available for comment.

524 banners, flex boards removed

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru North and Central city corporations removed 524 illegal flex boards, banners and hoardings on Monday.

North Corporation removed 473, with more than half (280) from Kodigehalli alone; 54 were removed from T Dasarahalli, 45 from Thanisandra, 38 from Jakkur, 35 from Attur, and 21 from Yelahanka Satellite Town, officials said.

In a similar drive on Tuesday, Bengaluru Central City Corporation removed 51 illegal hoardings and banners from skywalks and bus shelters.

Senior officials said they regularly remove illegal banners and flex boards to keep the city clean.

However, Kodigehalli residents noted that most banners were put up by political party workers for Sankranti greetings.

"Now that the festival is over, the corporation has removed them. Until last week, when flexes were put up every 100 metres, there was hardly any action," said a resident of Telecom Layout.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Launch of London-style Ambari double-decker buses: HK Patil to attend; Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation, in front of Ravindra Kalakshetra; 10.30 am.

CULTURAL

Nijasharan Ambigara Chowdary Jayanti: Siddaramaiah to attend; Kannada and Culture Department; Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 11 am.

Music Programme: Arun Kumar RT; Department of Kannada and Culture; Kidwai Granthi Institute Auditorium; from 3 pm onwards.

Tejaswi Drama Festival: 'Paka Kranti'; Department of Horticulture, KP Poornachandra Tejaswi Pratishthan; Lalbagh; 5 pm.

24th State Drama Festival: 'Prana Padmini', directed by Manjunath L Badigera, Spandana; Bhagavataru; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 7.15 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Inauguration of Adishakti Temple: Greater Bangalore Authority, Corporation Officers and Employees Welfare Association; GBA Head Office; 6 am.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.4°C
Minimum	14.8°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as fo 5:30 pm)	NA
Sunset (Jan 21)	6:15 pm
Sunrise (Jan 22)	6:46 am
Moonrise	6:00 am
Moonset	7:30 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

E-AUCTION IS INVITED FOR LEASING OF SLRs OVER LUMDING DIVISION

E-Auction for the contract of leasing of SLRs for 03 years in trains originating from Lumding Division has been invited. **Auction Catalogue No.: Lease-LMG-03-26. Rate Unit:** Per Trip Licensing Fee. **Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots)** : At **11:00** hrs. on **28-01-2026**.

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Lot End Date & Time
AA/1	15630-SLR-F1-SHTT-TBM-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	11:30 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/2	15616-SLR-F2-SCL-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	11:40 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/3	12504-SLR-F1-AGTL-SMVB-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	11:50 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/4	15418-SLR-R1-SHTT-APDJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	12:00 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/5	13126-SLR-F1-SANG-KOAA-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	12:10 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/6	12520-SLR-F1-AGTL-LTT-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	12:20 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/7	15641-SLR-F1-SCL-NTSK-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	12:30 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/8	15618-SLR-F1-DLCR-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	12:40 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/9	15663-SLR-F1-AGTL-SCL-25-3 (Parcel-SLR)	12:50 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/10	15626-SLR-F1-AGTL-DGHR-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	13:00 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/11	13182-SLR-F1-SHTT-KOAA-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	13:10 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/12	20501-SLR-F1-AGTL-ANVT-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	13:20 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/13	15817-SLR-F1-SKHV-NHLN-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	13:30 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/14	15616-SLR-R1-SCL-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	13:40 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/15	15618-SLR-R1-DLCR-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	13:50 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/16	15610-SLR-F1-SANG-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	14:00 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/17	15664-SLR-F1-SCL-AGTL-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	14:10 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/18	12502-SLR-F1-AGTL-KOAA-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	14:20 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/19	14619-SLR-F1-AGTL-FZR-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	14:30 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/20	12516-SLR-F1-SCL-CBE-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	14:40 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/21	15418-SLR-F1-SHTT-APDJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	14:50 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/22	15418-SLR-F2-SHTT-APDJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	15:00 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/23	15618-SLR-F2-DLCR-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	15:10 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/24	13176-SLR-F1-SCL-SDAH-25-3 (Parcel-SLR)	15:20 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/25	13174-SLR-F1-SBRM-SDAH-25-4(Parcel-SLR)	15:30 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/26	15616-SLR-F1-SCL-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	15:40 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/27	12508-SLR-F1-SCL-TVC-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	15:50 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/28	20507-SLR-F1-SANG-ANVT-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	16:00 hrs. on 28-01-26

Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Successive lots closing interval 10 minutes. Lot-wise closing time can be viewed in e-Auction module of IREPS. **Note** : Prospective bidder are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in** for more details.

Divisional Railway Manager (C), Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

E-AUCTION FOR THE CONTRACT OF LEASING OF SLRs

E-Auction for the contract of leasing of SLRs for 3 years in trains originating from Lumding Division. **Description:** Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment). **Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots) : 11:00** hrs. on **27-01-2026**; **Auction Close Date & Time : 17:40** hrs. on **27-01-2026**. **Rate Unit:** Per Trip Licensing Fee .

Auction Catalogue No.: Lease-LMG-02-26

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Trips/Days
AA/1	15634-SLR-F1-GHY-BKN-25-3 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/2	15077-SLR-F1-KYQ-GTNR-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/3	15603-SLR-F2-GHY-LEDO-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/4	15602-SLR-F2-GHY-DBB-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/5	15669-SLR-F2-GHY-DBRG-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/6	15602-SLR-F1-GHY-DBB-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/7	15632-SLR-F1-GHY-BME-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/8	15653-SLR-F1-GHY-JAT-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/9	15648-SLR-F1-GHY-LTT-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/10	22512-SLR-F1-KYQ-LTT-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/11	15815-SLR-F1-GHY-DKGN-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/12	15669-SLR-R1-GHY-DBRG-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/13	15602-SLR-R1-GHY-DBB-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/14	15640-SLR-F1-KYQ-PURI-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/15	15668-SLR-F1-KYQ-GIMB-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/16	15662-SLR-F1-KYQ-RNC-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/17	19306-SLR-F1-KYQ-DADN-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/18	12518-SLR-F1-GHY-KOAA-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/19	15644-SLR-F1-KYQ-PURI-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/20	15754-SLR-F2-GHY-APDJ-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/21	15665-SLR-F2-GHY-MXN-25-4 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/22	15665-SLR-R1-GHY-MXN-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/23	15669-SLR-F1-GHY-DBRG-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/24	12552-SLR-F1-KYQ-SMVB-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/25	15651-SLR-F1-GHY-JAT-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/26	13247-SLR-F1-KYQ-ARA-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	628
AA/27	15603-SLR-F1-GHY-LEDO-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/28	15815-SLR-F2-GHY-DKGN-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/29	15620-SLR-F1-KYQ-GAYA-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/30	15636-SLR-F1-GHY-OKHA-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/31	12510-SLR-F1-GHY-SMVB-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	470
AA/32	15754-SLR-R1-GHY-APDJ-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/33	15815-SLR-R1-GHY-DKGN-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/34	19616-SLR-F1-KYQ-UDZ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/35	12088-SLR-F1-GHY-NHLN-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	470
AA/36	15754-SLR-F1-GHY-APDJ-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/37	15665-SLR-F1-GHY-MXN-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/38	22449-SLR-F1-GHY-NDLS-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	314

Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction leasing Module of IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Divisional Railway Manager (C), Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice No.: BE-TLAC-Modif-OT-2026-1 Dated: 12.01.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Modification for prevention of Rodent entry in switchboard cabinet panels of LHB AC coaches.	Rs. 77,57,428.00

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:30 Hrs. on 02.02.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Bengaluru
PUB/831/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:
Open Notice No.: BE-29-2025-26-0T-22

Sl.#	Description of work	Approx. Value
1	Zonal contract for electrical works under SSE/P/Yesvantpur jurisdiction.	Rs. 41,79,506/-

Open Notice No.: BE-29-2025-26-0T-26

2	Zonal contract for electrical works under SSE/P/Bengaluru Cantonment jurisdiction.	Rs. 33,53,330/-

Open Notice No.: BE-29-202S-26-0T-27

3	Zonal contract for electrical works under SSE/P/PRS jurisdiction.	Rs. 32,00,351/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 06.02.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ General/Bengaluru
PUB/829/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

EASTERN RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No. : ELD-300-WC-33-2025-26, dated 14.01.2026. e-Tender is invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Sealdah, Eastern Railway, Control Building, 1st Floor, DRM office, Kaiser Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work : **Tender No. : ELD-300-WC-33-2025-26. Name of Work :** 25KV OHE and allied electrical works in connection with "Elimination of Level Crossing Gate No. 94, 96, 97, 98, 119, 122, 141/T, 152 and 163 by constructing Limited Height Subway (LHS) by RCC Boxes in Krishnanagar City Jn-Lalgola Section". **Tender value :** ₹ 1,25,83,208/-. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 2,12,900/-. **Cost of Tender Document :** Nil. **Completion Period :** 12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance. **Date of closing :** 10.02.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Details of tender notice and corrigendum issued from time to time are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in** (SDAH-357/2025-26)
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/169/2026 Dated 14.01.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.No.	Item of work	Approx. Value
1	**Whitefield:** Major upgradation / Modernization of infrastructure at SGWF goods Shed including Electrical works (Composite work) **(Tender Ref. No. SGT-WFD-GOODSHED)**	Rs. 36,44,29,676/-
2	Composite work (Civil, Electrical General & OHE works) for Construction of New crossing station at Kavalande Yard at KM: 40/420 between Nanjangud (NTW) and Chamarajanagara (CMNR) stations in Mysuru (MYS) - Chamarajanagara (CMNR) Section. **(Tender Ref. No. NTW-CMNR-XINGSTN)**	Rs. 31,11,02,446/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 06.02.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantt.
PUB/832/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela (Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221
E- Open Tender Notice No.:-S/RWP/E/2025-26/18, Dated : 19.01.2026
Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "e-Open Tender"**, through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in** for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. **SN.-1. Tender No.:** 01251034, **Short Description of item :** CALCINED LIME, **Quantity :** 4876 MT, **Date of Tender Closing/ Opening :** 09.02.2026 at 14:00 Hrs., **1.** Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in. 2.** The prospective firms/ bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including **Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation** with respect to the above tender.
For PCMM/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt/2025-26/101

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
MECHANICAL WORK
Tender Notice No. GEM/2026/B/7117378 dated-19.01.2026 DRM(M)'s office, Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of the President of India invites sealed tender from the reputed firms/contractors for the following work. **1 Name of work with its locality:-** The contract work of On Board House Keeping Service (OBHS) in primary maintained trains of Solapur division for a period of 28 months on manpower basis through GeM. **2. System of tendering:-** Two packet system. **3. Approximate cost of work:-** Rs. 9,08,47,596.19/-, **4. Cost of the Tender form:-** Nil, **5. Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased:-** DRM(M)'s office, Central Railway, Solapur, **6. Earnest money to be deposited:-** Rs. 6,04,240.00/-, **7. Completion period of the work:-** Twenty Eight Months from the date of commencement of the work. **8. Date and time for submission of tender:-** 11.02.2026 at 11.00 hrs., **9. Date and time of opening of tender:-** 11.02.2026 at 11.30 hrs., **10. Website particulars & notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen:- WWW.GeM.gov.in.**
26 Sr. DME. Sur
Keep your animals away from railway lines

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER
DRM/ENGG, South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur acting for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. Manual Offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl.No.**-1. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-CENTRAL-25-26-060. Name of work:** Supply and loading into Railway Wagons/Hoppers 152019 cum 50mm gauge machine crushed hard stone ballast at Pakur/Bakudih/Rajgram/ Barharwa/Pinargaria/Taljhari Quarry under Jurisdiction of Chakradharpur Division. (Measurement at destination). **Tender Value:** ₹ 30,32,20,137.78. **EMD:** ₹ 16,66,100. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-WEST-25-26-38. Name of work:** Construction of subway adjacent to ongoing ROB in lieu of LC No. 215 in Kalunga Yard under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN(West)/ Chakradharpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 4,87,83,930.76. **EMD:** ₹ 3,93,900. **Cost of Tender form:** ₹ 0 (for Sl.No. 1 & 2). **Date of Opening:** 09.02.2026 (for Sl.No. 1 & 2). The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer/ bidders must have class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **Note:** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority– Railway Board's letter no. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). **(PR-1079)**

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, बोकारो
ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई–पुनर्निविदा सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/BOKARO/53/2024-25/4th Call
1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	बोकारो जिला अंतर्गत चास प्रखण्ड के तेतुलिया मौजा एवं एन०एच०–23 बारी को–ऑपरेटिव मोड़ के बीच गरगा नदी पर पुराने पुल के बगल में उच्चस्तरीय पुल निर्माण। (लम्बाई 76.18 मी०)	40755600.00	815500.00	10000.00	18 माह

2.वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 28.01.2026
3.ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 28.01.2026 से दिनांक 11.02.2026 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4.ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, बोकारो।
5.ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 13.02.2026 अपराह्न 02:00 बजे
6.ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, बोकारो।
7.ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 06542 291060 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8.परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9.निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10.निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

PR 371176 (Rural Development)25-26*D

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,बोकारो।

Rs 2.16 cr siphoned off from firm, recovered within golden hour

CCB foils fake email scam against pharma company

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) prevented the loss of Rs 2.16 crore by freezing a bank account within an hour of receiving a complaint, the city police said on Tuesday.

The incident was reported in November 2025, with the police receiving an alert during the crucial golden hour, enabling swift action.

A senior police officer said the fraud was allegedly orchestrated by a cybercriminal operating from Nigeria, who targeted a Bengaluru-based pharmaceutical firm by creating a fake email ID.

Using the forged email, the accused contacted Dr Reddy's Laboratories, the Hyderabad-headquartered pharma major.

Believing the email to be genuine, Dr Reddy's Laboratories transferred Rs 2.16 crore as payment.

However, the amount was credited not to the company's official account, but to a fraudulent account opened in the name of Dakshya Ben Patel, a Gujarat-based woman.

The cyberfraudster had allegedly shared alternate bank account details through the fake email, diverting the payment to the fraudulent account.

The fraud came to light when the firm's accountant noticed the discrepancy and immediately alerted the CCB cybercrime police.

Acting on the complaint, the police tracked the transaction and froze the beneficiary account within an hour, preventing the funds from being withdrawn.

A court order was subsequently obtained on January 5, directing the release of the frozen funds.

Techie loses Rs 5 lakh after clicking on fake website to clear Rs 500 traffic challan

BENGALURU, DHNS: A software engineer from HBR Layout allegedly lost Rs 5 lakh after she entered her card details on an unsolicited website to clear a traffic challan of Rs 500.

The East Cybercrime Police on January 16 registered a case and launched a probe.

The 45-year-old victim told police that on January 16, around 9.30 am, she received a text message from an unknown number with a link — https://lihi.cc/LcbFG — to pay a pending traffic challan.

She clicked the link and proceeded to pay Rs 500 as prompted by the website. After entering her credentials, Rs 5 lakh was deducted from her ICICI Bank credit card.

"It is suspected the unsolicited website had a backdoor, giving the perpetrators access to the credentials entered by the victim when she thought she was paying a pending fine.

"We want to reiterate that people should pay fines only through official modes and that the traffic police does not send such messages on WhatsApp, Telegram or any other messenger," a police investigator said.

Viral Mysuru Road stunt: Lamborghini driver booked

BENGALURU, DHNS

The green Lamborghini Huracan spotted on Mysuru Road.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) registered an FIR against the driver of a green Lamborghini Huracan for allegedly driving recklessly on Mysuru Road near Kengeri.

The action follows a viral video on Instagram and X showing the supercar weaving through traffic at high speed, endangering commuters. Taking suo motu cognisance of the evidence, the Kengeri traffic police began a probe.

Anoop A Shetty, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, West), confirmed that the driver was booked under Section 281 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for rash driving on a public way.

"We have registered an FIR based on the viral footage.

"The vehicle was driven in a manner that posed a significant threat to public safety," the DCP said, adding that teams are tracing the driver's identity and the vehicle's registration details.

Police reiterated that high-end vehicle owners are not exempt from traffic discipline and that social media monitoring has been intensified to curb such stunt-driving.

Man wears stolen women's innerwear, poses for selfies

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hebbagodi police have arrested a 23-year-old man for stealing women's innerwear and taking selfies while wearing them.

The accused, identified as Amul NG, allegedly stole women's inner garments that were left to dry on the terrace of a residential building. He is also accused of filming himself wearing the stolen innerwear and sharing the videos online.

Based on the video, the Hebbagodi police registered a suo motu case on Monday and picked him up for questioning.

During interrogation, the suspect reportedly admitted to stealing women's innerwear, wearing them, and recording videos. Police later searched his residence and recovered several women's inner garments, which were seized. The accused is in judicial custody.

Rs 5.15-cr drugs seized from Nigerian peddler

CCB steps up action against narcotics trafficking

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police have cracked down on narcotics trafficking in the city, arresting a Nigerian national and seizing 2.5 kg of MDMA worth Rs 5.15 crore along with 300 ecstasy pills.

The contraband was recovered from a rented house in Munekolalu near Marathahalli.

The arrested accused has been identified as Ernest Onyekachi Ugah, 45, a native of Nigeria.

Acting on a tip-off, CCB officers raided his rented accommodation and seized the contraband.

Investigations revealed that Ugah had earlier been arrested by the Kadugodi and Hennur police in similar drug cases. After being released from jail, he allegedly resumed peddling activities.

Keeping a close watch on his movements, the CCB Anti-Narcotics Wing successfully secured his arrest. Police are now probing his network, sources of supply, and possible links to other accused as part of further investigation under the NDPS Act.

Two held for smuggling 26 kg ganja on train

BENGALURU, DHNS: Railway police have arrested two persons caught attempting to smuggle 26 kg of ganja into Bengaluru, officials said.

The arrested are Bichitrananda Patta Naik, 33, and Chaitanya Zhankar, 25, both from Odisha. Police said the two were involved in wood-chopping work in their hometown.

Police said on January 17, the two were caught aboard the Prasanti Express with ganja worth an estimated Rs 13.3 lakh.

Police are investigating whether a wider network is involved. Further investigation is underway.

3 BMTC conductors suspended for tampering with UPI ticketing

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BMTC has suspended three conductors for misusing the UPI scanner-linked ticketing system.

A routine inspection in December 2025 revealed that three staff members — Suresh, Manchegowda and Ashwak Khan — used their personal UPI QR codes while issuing tickets, instead of the official code provided by the BMTC.

The three conductors diverted ticketing funds worth Rs 1,04,821.

Manjegowda, posted in the south zone, diverted Rs 54,358.

Suresh, posted in the north-east, diverted Rs 47,257, and Khan diverted Rs 3,206.

To prevent recurrence, the BMTC has planned to implement a dynamic QR-based UPI payment system for more transparent ticketing.

Prohibited goods found in prison

BENGALURU, DHNS: Continuing a special drive, authorities seized eight mobile phones and other prohibited items from the Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara.

During searches conducted at 8.30 pm on January 17, officials also recovered seven SIM cards, a charger, two earphones, three earbuds, extra clothing, and blankets.

A total of 28 FIRs have been registered so far for the use of prohibited items inside the prison, and 142 mobile phones have been recovered from inmates.

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Sl. No.	Prize Category	Prize Description	Winning Coupon No.
1	Bumper Prize	Maruti Alto K10 VXi MT	150387
2	1st Prize	Hero Pleasure+ XTEC	354005
3	2nd Prize	Hero Pleasure+ VX	346759
4	3rd Prize	Laptop	165174
5	4th Prize	LED TV - 55"	211337
6	5th Prize	Washing Machine -LG 7.5 Kg	325505
7	6th Prize	Refrigerator - 240 Litres	249997
8	7th Prize	OPPO Mobile (A Series)	347913
9	8th Prize	Hero Sports Cycle	128169
10	9th Prize	Mixer Grinder with Juicer (Preethi)	395317
11	10th Prize	Consolation Prizes 100 Nos Coupons with last 4 digits ending with	1) 9976, 2) 9390, 3) 2120

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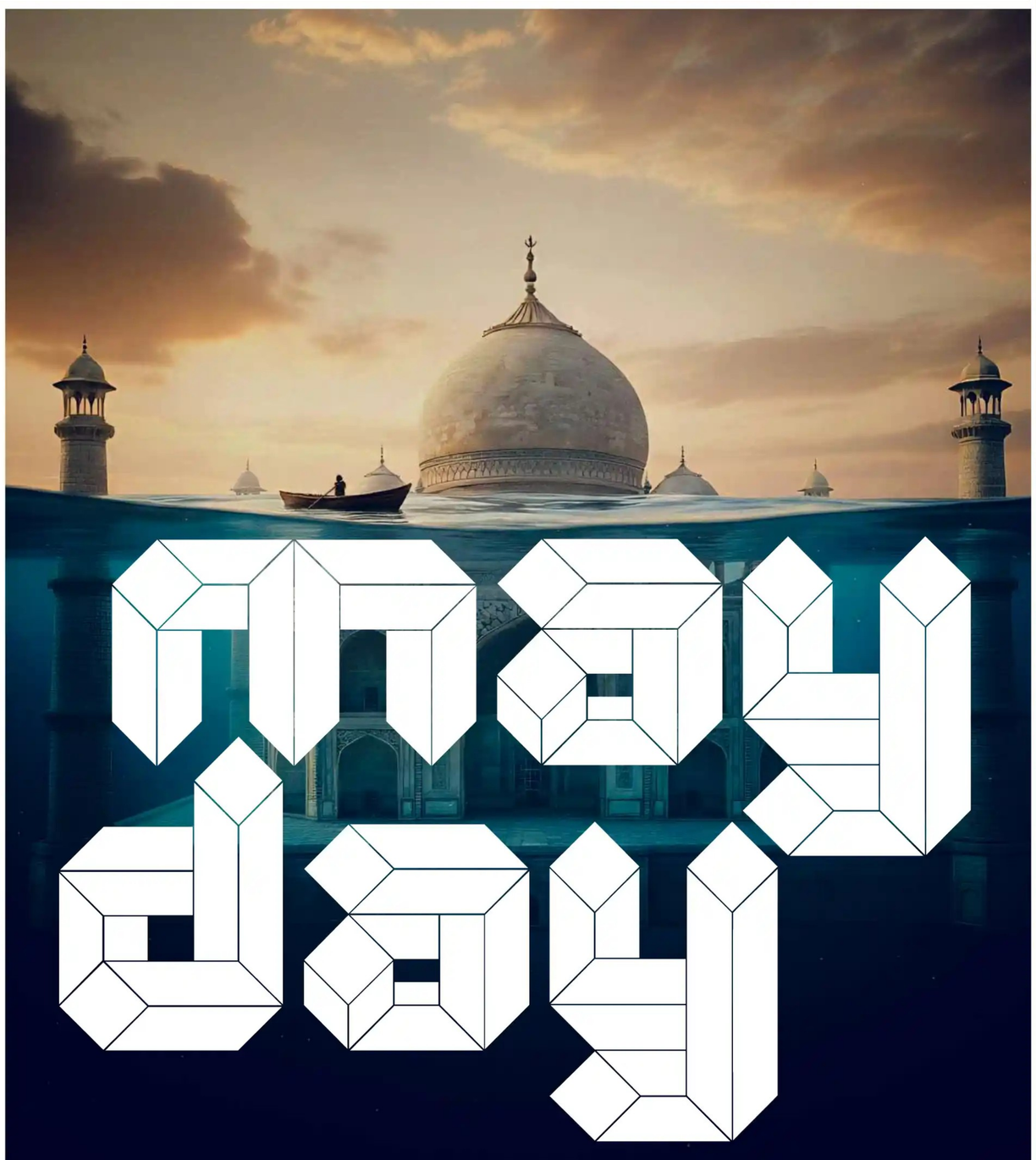

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2	Kannada	B. A or M.A in concerned language with B. Ed or Equivalent with minimum 60%	03
	Hindi		03
	Mathematics	B.Sc or M.Sc in concerned subject with B.Ed or Equivalent with minimum 60%	03
	EVS/Science		03
	Social Science		02
	Computer Science	B.C.A or M.C.A	02
3	Art	B.F.A or M.F.A.	01
4	Craft		01
5	Music	Graduation in music or Sangeet Visharada	01
6	Dance Western	Graduation in dance or its equivalent	01
	Classical		01
7	Drums	Graduation in Instrumentals with PUC	01
8	Keyboard		01
9	Dance	Graduation in dance or its equivalent	01
10	Yoga	Bachelor in Yogic Science	01
11	PE	B.P.Ed or M.P.Ed	01
12	LIBRARY	B.Lib or M.Lib	01
13	Counsellor	B.A. in Child Psychology	01

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Date: 20-01-2026

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Spike in premarital counselling

Experts say even live-in partners, singles, and those planning second marriages are opting in for these sessions

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Experts say premarital counselling is often sought by clients in the 26-35 age group.

Relationship counsellors in Bengaluru are reporting a spike in premarital counselling sessions. An increasing number of betrothed couples, those in live-in or long-term relationships, singles considering marriage and individuals planning a second marriage are seeking their help, they say.

Psychiatrist Dr Safiya M S has seen a spike of 30-40% in couples and individuals seeking premarital counselling over the last five years. This, she adds, is not just due to greater awareness of therapy, but also a shift in how relationships and marriage decisions are made. "Decision-making has moved from parents to individuals, not only with regards to the partner but also when it comes to expenses and style of wedding," she says.

Muniswamy K S, consultant clinical psychologist at a private hospital, agrees that premarital counselling enquiries and sessions have seen a significant spike. Over the last three years, in his experience, close to 70% of premarital counselling clients are individuals considering a second marriage.

Psychotherapist Kala Balasubramanian agrees. "This is a growing segment, as people want to avoid repeating painful patterns," she says. In such cases, she says the focus often shifts to unresolved baggage from past marriages. "Second marriages can bring additional layers, especially when children are involved. This is when co-parenting is discussed, since the former partners may need to stay connected," she says.

From 20s to 40s

Experts say premarital counselling is often sought by clients in the 26-35 age group, though some in their 40s also sign up for sessions.

Dr Safiya says she sees more couples who are dating, than those who are formally engaged. Many now come in before engagement "to decide whether to take the next step". Engaged couples, she adds, often arrive after a conflict has escalated. "Family and wedding-related third-party interference is a recurring trigger, including disagreements over finances, wedding expenses, style of wedding, and how the wedding should be conducted," she adds.

Jaya Aiyappa, psychotherapist and sexuality educator, says couples come in at multiple stages, and "sometimes only one partner is willing".

Important topics

Most experts reveal that family planning, finance, career changes, and living arrangements are some common topics of discussion. Dr Safiya notes that friction caused by differences in religion and religious practices are also common among her clients. Management of household chores is another important issue, she adds.

Jaya says concerns about sex commonly come up in her sessions. "Many couples want support in navigating intimacy and understanding their sexual needs," she adds.

How involved the extended family will be, and decisions around children are talked about, adds Kala. Many also need help discussing boundaries in relationships. "Questions like whether flirting is acceptable are now being discussed, often with professional support because these are tricky conversations," she adds.

Recognising red flags

Premarital counselling can help spot patterns that could turn out to be major problems later on, especially poor communication and lack of clarity, says Dr Safiya. "Deeper conversation over finances and who will manage money is crucial," she says.

She adds that in some cases, counselling has helped couples call off the wedding. In one instance, she says, the conflict was over money. The man wanted his partner's money to be moved into a joint account, but "she wanted financial independence". Other deal-breakers are religion and living with in-laws.

Jaya says counselling helps couples recognise differences between them. She recalls a case where a couple realised they disagreed on having children. "He realised that he might hold it against her all his life, and they decided not to go ahead with the wedding," she says.

POPCORN

Snack bite

Kejriwal has a question for Modi. Why was Rs 2 crore spent on samosas during the prime minister's visit to tribal areas in Gujarat? And why was it spent from the state kitty and not the central kitty? Good questions, and the AAP leader says the money would have been better spent if the government had provided free electricity or built hospitals and schools. The visit cost the state Rs 50 crore but what caught Kejriwal's eye was the triangular snack. Is that because there's mosa in samosa?

EVENTS

Play on Mahabharata

Pratibimb Theatre Company will present 'God's Lioness' on January 23, 7.30 pm, at Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar, and January 24, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm, at Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield. Using puppetry, masks, and movement inspired by Chhau and Kathakali, the English play reimagines the 'Mahabharata' through the lens of Draupadi. Tickets online.

Maestros in concert

Sitar exponent Ustad Shujaat Husain Khan and two-time Grammy Award-winning flautist Pandit Rakesh Chaurasia will perform a concert titled 'Strings and Wind' on January 22, 7 pm, at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval. Tickets online.

Poetry of saints

Yalgaar Lok Sanskriti Manch from Mumbai will perform 'Rang Aman Ke' on January 23, 7 pm, at Indian Music Experience museum, J P Nagar. The concert will feature works of poet saints and revolutionary poets, on themes of freedom, equality, justice and unity. Tickets online.

Talk on food

Ritaban Ghosh will discuss how certain foods are considered waste while others are repurposed for consumption, on January 25 at 4 pm at Science Gallery Bengaluru, Ballari Road. To register, visit calorie.scigalleryblr.org

Metro commuters seek better grievance redressal

Despite high fares, riders say trains and stations lack maintenance and basic amenities

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Commuters believe issues like lack of regular cleaning and patrolling can be resolved if BMRCL addresses overcrowding. DH FILE PHOTO

While Namma Metro fares are expected to rise by up to 5% this year, commuters say long-standing complaints about poorly maintained trains, overcrowding, and rule violations, such as loud music and poor elevator etiquette, remain unaddressed.

'Prioritise affordability'

Rajesh Bhat P, a member of the Bengaluru Metro Commuters' Association, says BMRCL should prioritise affordability over network expansion. "Otherwise, it risks losing its role as public transport. A commuter or representative must be part of the Fare Fixation Committee to determine affordable rates and offer discounts for students and the disabled," he says.

Despite higher fares, he says essential services are missing. "Some stations charge Rs 2 to Rs 5 for toilets, plus there's no free drinking water. I once saw people scrambling to find water for an elderly man after he fainted on the platform," he says.

'Hot and sweaty'

A Peenya commuter says air conditioning on the Green Line is often ineffective. Sneha S, who travels from Vijayanagar to Hebbaguddi, says during peak hours, coaches smell, and glass panels are stained with sweat. Bhat suggests deploying maintenance staff onboard instead of limiting cleaning to terminal stations.

A customer care representative at Majestic station told *Metrolife* that they have been getting complaints about overcrowded train sets "wobbling" over the past two months.

Stations face issues too, *Metrolife* found over a six-day reality check across the Green, Purple and Yellow lines. Underground stations had broken benches and dirty floors, while elevated stations had benches covered in pigeon droppings.

Bhat says overcrowding often leads to lapses in regular cleaning and patrolling, and that increasing the number and frequency of trains is the need of the hour.

'Lack of etiquette'

Disregard for etiquette is a recurrent complaint. Many chew tobacco, refuse to vacate seats reserved for the elderly, disabled, or pregnant, talk loudly on their phones or watch videos at high volume. Women report men entering women-only carriages late at night and refusing to leave.

The Peenya resident calls BMRCL's customer care "abysmal", saying her repeated complaints over email or X (formerly Twitter) have gone unacknowledged. "Only once did an official act swiftly. At other times, everyone from security personnel to those at billing counters seems clueless about how to escalate issues related to air conditioning and noise," she says.

College student Avanthika Gowda recalls approaching customer care at Baiyappanahalli to complain about intoxicated youths disturbing passengers. "I wrote my complaint in a register as instructed. Nothing happened," she says.

A civic activist says BMRCL should hold a 'metro adalat' with officials in attendance to quickly address grievances, followed by periodic assessments to ensure a high degree of customer satisfaction. He also recommends installing QR codes at stations to make the process of complaint registration easier. He adds that commuters must also take responsibility. Only if people feel a sense of ownership about the Metro network, they are more likely to take care of their surroundings, he says.

'We are addressing complaints'

A senior BMRCL official told *Metrolife* they are aware of these issues and are taking steps to address them. As a major step, he says homeguards now conduct random checks and penalise offenders. An official at Majestic station said as per SOP, staff turn away passengers who appear intoxicated or chew paan.

Students grab opportunities to volunteer at big festivals

Slots are often filled within a day, and sometimes, twice the number required apply

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

College students are increasingly volunteering at major cultural festivals in Bengaluru. Their roles range from guest relations to social media co-ordination and crowd management. Their motivation? They want to take on new responsibilities, gain exposure to arts and media, and watch their favourite artistes up close.

The ongoing city-wide BLR Hubba has around 130 volunteers and mediators, a majority of them college students. The student volunteer base has grown steadily, from about 30 in their first edition in 2023 to 70 in 2024. Volunteers are shortlisted from the applicant pool based on their skill sets. Some work on weekends, others after college hours, while a few have sought permission to be excused from classrooms for the entire duration of the 10-day festival. They get a daily honorarium of Rs 1,000.

Puja Das, who oversees the festival's youth engagement initiative, says students are critical to the festival's smooth functioning — before, during, and after events. While volunteers mostly handle visitor engagement and floor operations, mediators, who are more experienced, work with children or liaise with artistes.

Multiple gigs

The opportunities are not limited to any discipline. On Sunday, *Metrolife* met engineering student Maanya Bhardwaj at the registration desk of Culture-otsava, a sub-festival of BLR Hubba. Maanya is also involved in the festival's upcoming neighbourhood event in Panduranga Nagara. Overall, her roles have included contacting artistes and workshop facilitators, leading a flash mob, curating activities, and co-ordinating teams handling social media, ambulance services, and traffic management. She says such events combine her interest in arts and culture with the opportunity to meet people of diverse interests who are "passionate about what they do".

The same day, *Metrolife* met BCom students Sherly Bernard and Tejaswini S at Richmond Park during RichLang Rasthe Hubba. They were posted as part of civil defence services for a stipend of Rs 1,500. Their role requires them to respond to emergencies. When they noticed a young boy bleeding from the nose, they administered first aid and handed him over to his family who were outside the park.

Both chose civil defence to get a glimpse of government service — Tejaswini wants to join the army. They have previously assisted during New Year's Eve bandobast on M G Road, and Muharram processions along Richmond Road. They have helped inebriated women get home safely, redirected vehicles, and supported the police.

Hiring volunteers

Often, open calls are posted on social media. Sometimes, old volunteers recommend college juniors or friends, or colleges send students for exposure.

Chaotic but worth it

Now running a food business, Palgun K J began volunteering at Atta Galatta's bookstore at the Bangalore Literature Festival roughly a decade ago while awaiting the results of his postgraduate admissions. "In my first year, I was packaging books, unloading trucks, shelving titles, and helping visitors choose books. Now, I manage operations," he says. The experience, he adds, taught him to be outspoken, think on his feet, and thrive "amid chaos".

Maanya found it inspiring to see teams bring ideas to life, handle conflicts with kindness, and fix issues such as poor Internet connectivity promptly. A law student who volunteered at Maya Bazaar 2025, an LGBTQIA+ fest, says the experience offered insight into different individualities.

Aparajitha Sankar from Atta Galatta views these festivals as a stepping stone in life. She says college students are entrusted with responsibilities they may have never held before, so they enjoy becoming responsible adults.

Pranav Rao and Shri Gowri C G, who are studying commerce and early childhood care respectively, facilitate a session for Makkala Hubba.

Concert to mark NGO milestone

A devotional concert of bhajans and abhangs in praise of Krishna will be held on Sunday. The event marks the 25th anniversary of AIM for Seva's work with first-generation learners from rural India. They run a network of free student hostels, schools, and evening tuition centres.

Titled 'Hé Govind', the concert will feature an ensemble of musicians, such as Jayateerth Mevundi (vocals), Pravin Godkhindi (flute), Basavaraj Hiremath (harmonium), Rajendra Nakod (tabla), and Sukhad Manik Munde (pakhawaj).

The programme includes compositions by saints and select works of the organisation's founder, Dayananda Saraswati.

January 25, 6.30 pm, at NMKRV Mangala Mantapa, NMKRV PU College, Jayanagar. For free passes and other details, visit aimforseva.in.

Workshop on Kanhailal's theatre practices

Lekhaq Lab, Bhandutvas, and Linear Festivals are hosting a two-day actor training workshop. It is based on the theatre practices of veteran practitioner Heisnam Kanhailal. It will be conducted by notable theatre personality from Manipur, Heisnam Sabitri, along with faculty from Kalakshetra Manipur. The workshop focuses on psycho-physical actor training processes rooted in movement, voice, music, and presence. It is designed for theatre practitioners with prior experience.

On January 22, 5 pm to 8 pm, and January 23, 10 am to 1 pm, at Bhandutvas, Domlur. For details, contact 70198 78973.

New Kannada adaptation of Euripides' 'Medea'

Heggodu's Ninasam has adapted Greek playwright Euripides' 'Medea'. Directed by Manju Kodagu, the play will be staged in Bengaluru on Wednesday and Thursday.

First performed in 431 BC, the ancient Greek play raises questions about justice, revenge and gender. Over the centuries, it has been adapted and interpreted in many different ways.

The play is centred on Medea, a powerful sorceress from Colchis who helps her husband, the Greek hero Jason, to obtain the Golden Fleece. When Jason abandons Medea to marry Glauce, for political power, Medea takes revenge by killing Glauce and her own two children.

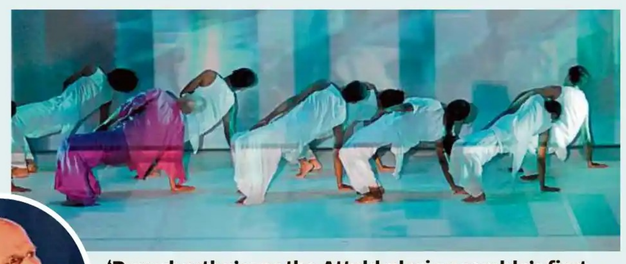
Ninasam's adaptation is translated by Madhav Chipli. Actors Vidya Hegde and Kiran Purappemane will play Medea and Jason.

'Medea' on January 21, 7 pm, at ADA Rangamandira, J C Road and January 22, 7.30 pm at Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar. Tickets online

B'luru contemporary dance centre completes 25 years

Attakkalari was first set up in a revamped car garage

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE



'Purushartha' was the Attakkalari ensemble's first full-length performance. It premiered in 2006. (left) Jayachandran Palazhy, the school's founder.

A Bengaluru dance school, credited with bringing the contemporary form of the art to the city, turns 25 this year. When Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts was first set up, in 2000, they did not have a permanent space. The following year, they revamped an old car garage in Wilson Garden with donations from friends and well-wishers, recalls Jayachandran Palazhy, the school's founder.

Palazhy, originally from Kerala, always leant towards contemporary expression in the arts, but there was no one teaching it back when he was growing up. While learning dance in Chennai and later while living in London, he exposed himself to as many varied art forms as possible to gain a broader experience and understanding of performance art.

When he moved back to India, 14 years later, he decided on setting up his school in Bengaluru. "It is meant to be a space where my students can have all those varied experiences under one roof," he explains. He chose Bengaluru because "it had none of that traditional hangover" characteristic of Chennai. He was also encouraged by the late Girish Karnad, whom he met in London, to open his institute in Bengaluru.

The institute has produced over 400 dancers over the years. Most of the alumni return to perform as Attakkalari's dance troupe.

Palazhy recalls one of his first performances as part of Attakkalari. 'Slam IV' was an interactive performance where Palazhy created music and images through his dance. "As I moved, my body created a painting on the screen behind me," he says, adding, "It was radical and way ahead of its time."

After 18 years of operating out of the renovated car mechanic shop, the school moved to a three-floor space in the same neighbourhood in 2019. Now, Palazhy is set to open another branch on a 1.65-acre lakeside property in Kempegowda Layout. "It will have two theatres, an amphitheatre, an exhibition space, a library and a restaurant," he shares.

Currently the school offers a diploma course and a six-month weekend course, covering contemporary dance, Bharatanatyam, ballet, yoga, Kalaripayattu, body conditioning and light design.

What's lined up

The 25th year, coincides with Attakkalari's Biennale, which sees troupes from across the world showcasing their performances. It is currently in its 12 edition.

On January 31, Attakkalari will present two special performances.

'Geometry of Becoming', a 25-minute performance, is inspired by the geometry of rangoli. It will be followed by 'Sonnet of Samsara', a 60-minute piece conceptualised as a response to climate emergency, unchecked technological growth, social fragmentation and conflicts.

January 31, 6 pm, at Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte. For details, call 7042212461.

Govt suspends Excise DC, superintendent

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government issued an order suspending Excise Deputy Commissioner Jagadish Nayak and Excise Superintendent Thammanna K M following their arrest by the Lokayukta while accepting bribe.

The allegation that they accepted a bribe has been proven prima facie, the order issued by the excise wing of the finance department stated. Nayak and Thammanna were trapped by Lokayukta sleuths while accepting a bribe and arrested on January 17. This has given ammunition to the Opposition BJP to attack the Congress government over corruption.

Higher Edu dept signs pact with British Council, Microsoft

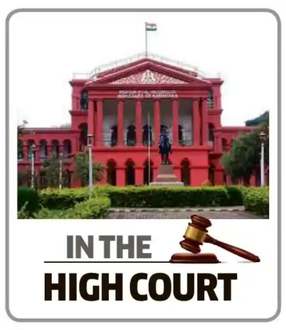
BENGALURU, DHNS: The department of Higher Education on Tuesday signed an MoU with the British Council and Microsoft India to expand the "English Skills for Youth" programme, which is implemented at 16 government engineering colleges, 54 degree and polytechnic colleges covering 9,500 students.

This scheme mainly aims to enhance employability skills among students.

Speaking after signing the MoU, Higher Education Minister Dr Sudhakar said "English is the medium of instruction at higher education, but not many speak English in the college. Whenever in college you have to speak in English, when back home speak in Kannada or whatever is your mother tongue with your parents," he advised students. He said students can pick up a language if they converse in it.

MUDA scam: HC denies bail to former commissioner Dinesh Kumar

Says petitioner at liberty to approach HC directly after three months



BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday refused bail to former MUDA commissioner G T Dinesh Kumar in a money-laundering case over illegal site allotments.

However, Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav observed that the petitioner was at liberty to approach the high court directly after three months in renewed plea for bail.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had launched the probe based on an FIR registered by the Lokayukta police in a private complaint, in which Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his wife B M Parvathi are also accused.

The Lokayukta police have filed a 'B' report insofar as the allegations against Siddaramaiah and others are concerned. On September 16, 2025, the ED arrested Kumar and he presently in judicial custody.

Kumar's counsel contended that with the investigation of the predicate offence (by the Lokayukta police) not having concluded, the prosecution ought not to have proceeded to file the prosecution complaint. He also submitted that the petitioner has been singled out, while the other alleged co-accused have not been arrested. He has been in judicial custody since September 16, 2025.

On the other hand, the ED submitted that the proceedings under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) would end only when the accused is absolved of the allegations on merits in the predicate offence. It further stated that there is substantial evidence in establishing Kumar's involvement.

The court perused the prosecution complaint details and cited a table explaining the alleged proceeds of crime pursuant to illegal allotments of 283 sites when Kumar was the commissioner of the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA). It also pointed out that of the 48 sites allotted to Chamundeshwari Nagara Sarvodaya Sangha, many were obtained by real estate businessman N Manjunath through GPA.

Insofar as his long incarceration was concerned, the court said that the Supreme Court judgement in the Manish Sisodia case could be adopted in the present case.

"..the Supreme Court proceeded to grant bail (Manish Sisodia case) after taking note of the aspect of long incarceration. In the present case as well, having held that the length of incarceration cannot qualify to be long incarceration, as the petitioner has been in custody for 127 days as of now, it would be appropriate to reserve liberty to the petitioner to approach this court after a lapse of three months," Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav said, adding that the prosecution would also have to keep such aspects in mind so as to demonstrate that trial would be concluded within a reasonable time.

What is the ED case?

In its prosecution complaint (equivalent of a police charge sheet) filed on November 14, the ED gave specific instances of illegal allotments during Kumar's tenure.

In one instance, 48 sites were allotted in favour of Chamundeshwari Nagara Sarvodaya Sangha without the approval of the state government. The complaint also stated that of these 48 sites, three were obtained by Kumar's relatives through sale agreements without paying any money and that his relatives received huge money from N Manjunath, a major beneficiary of illegal allotment.

No home food for Darshan, Pavithra and others accused in Renukaswamy murder case

HC stays trial court order, notes it was against SC directive

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday stayed a trial court order directing the Bengaluru prison superintendent to provide home-cooked food to Kannada film star Darshan Thoogudeepa, his friend Pavithra Gowda and others accused in the Renukaswamy murder case.

Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the order on a petition filed by the state government challenging the trial court order.

"I deem it appropriate to stay the orders dated December 29, 2025, and January 12, 2026, till the next date of hearing. Emergent notices to the respondents (Pavithra Gowda and two others) to be served through the jail superintendent," Justice Nagaprasanna said, observing that the trial court had not followed the procedure prescribed under the prison rules and that the order runs counter to the order passed by the Supreme Court while cancelling the bail to the accused in the case.

At the hearing, Additional State Public Prosecutor B N Jagadeesha submitted that during trial in the murder case, on December 29, 2025, three accused — Pavithra Gowda (accused-1), R Nagaraja (accused -11) and M Lakshman (accused-12)—made an oral submission. They sought permission from the judge to have food from their homes. Considering this oral submission, the trial court directed the jail authorities to provide home-cooked food.

Jagadeesha pointed out that the Supreme Court had deprecated providing any special treatment to the accused, particularly in the present case.

The state petition stated that on January 5, 2026, officials of the Central Prison, Bengaluru, filed a request before the trial court for clarification of the order.

On January 12, 2026, the trial court passed a detailed order, directing the prison authorities to allow three accused (accused 1, 11 and 12) to receive home-cooked food once a week and, in other circumstances, to provide the same to the other accused in the case as and when the doctor advised.

The petition stated that no prisoner in the state is given any relaxation to have home-cooked food, unless it is prescribed by the Medical Officer, and said the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India has issued a certificate grading 4-star to the prison food.

Justice Nagaprasanna noted that the trial court had passed the order in blatant ignorance of the Supreme Court order and also issued a show-cause notice to the state as to why the food is not granted as directed by the court.

"The Supreme Court observes that "the day we come to know that the accused are provided with some special or 5-star treatment in the jail premises, the first step in the process will be to place the jail superintendent under suspension including all other officials involved in such misconduct. The Supreme Court observes that providing special food to certain prisoners, albeit they are undertrial prisoners, would be a misconduct," Justice Nagaprasanna said in the order.

The court also noted that the food can be provided from the house under special circumstances for which elaborate procedure is prescribed under the prison rules.

"As the Supreme Court had held that "a prison is a prisoner, undertrial prisoner or otherwise". Special treatment to some and normal treatment to some would be in violation of law. This is what the concerned court has now directed," the court said, ordering emergent notices to Pavithra Gowda and two others, to be served through the jail superintendent.

Govt finally gets candidates for VC's post in Gangubai Hangal music varsity

BENGALURU, DHNS: Finally, the state government has got a panel of eligible candidates to fill the vice-chancellor's post at Dr Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University in Mysuru.

The post of vice-chancellor (VC) was vacant since January 2025 when the tenure of the previous VC ended. Though the higher education department invited applications twice, no eligible candidates had applied. However, Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sud hakar on Tuesday said that the government had got a panel of three names. "We have received a panel of names but objections have been raised for the names recommended for the post. We will verify and finalise the eligible candidate from the panel," he said.

All other varisities have got new VCs except Gangubai Hangal University, the minister added. It can be recalled that Sudhakar had expressed disappointment over not getting eligible candidates to fill the post of vice-chancellor. He made this statement on the floor of the House and had given the example of Gangubai Hangal University.

Excavations soon at Lakkundi's temples turned into homes?

LAKKUNDI (GADAG DIST), DHNS: The Chowkimutt family has been living for five generations in the Mahanteshwara temple turned into a house in this historic town.

But now, it is probably time up for them to vacate the place to faclitate the rejuvenation of the temple, with a series of excavations on here to unearth heritage treasures.

The family too has no qualms about it, provided the government gives them alternative housing.

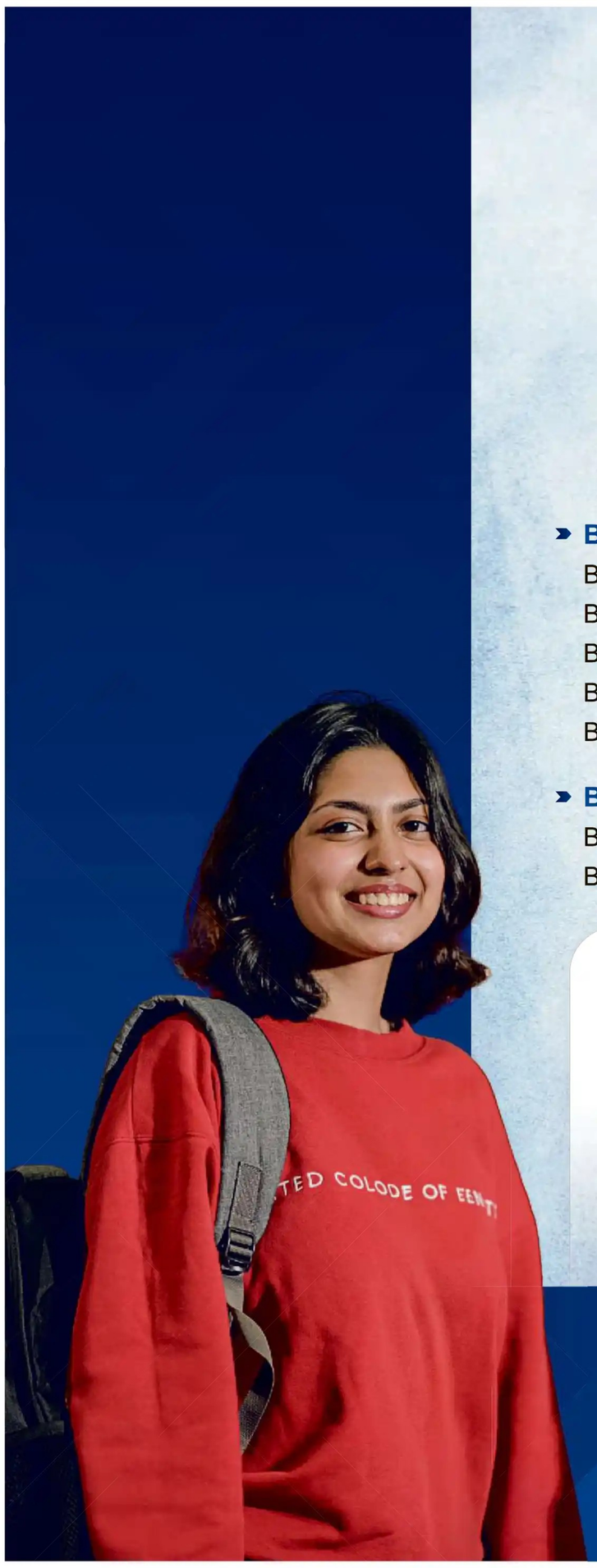
"We have been living here for decades, while continuing to offer puja to the deity. Historians say the deity here is Ardhanarishwara and not Mahanteshwara as believed. We are ready to move out to make way for reviving the old glory of the temple, but let them give us an alternative plot for our house," said Sharanayya Chowkimutt, the present head of the family.

Officials of the department of archaeology and Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority held an inspection of the house on Tuesday.

Digging work enters Day 5

Excavations at the Kote Veerabhadreshwara temple here entered Day 5 on Tuesday, when one half a big gray-coloured pot from neolithic age and a stone pedestal with a figure related to Jainism were discovered. Two to three cowreie shells were also unearthed, Siddu Patil, member of LHADA, said.

A total 34 workers are undertaking the excavations, which have now reached a depth of 5.5 feet.



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Cong MLC writes to Horatti on bill for regulating clubs

BENGALURU, DHNS: Congress MLC Ramesh Babu has urged Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti to move forward on a bill submitted by a House Committee aimed at bringing clubs in the state within the legal ambit.

In a letter written to Horatti on Monday, Babu explained that a legislative committee had submitted a 180-page report in 2017, wherein attention was drawn to violations by several clubs.

"The committee had also prepared a bill. If this becomes law, clubs will come under legal ambit and their actions can be regulated. To increase the state's revenue, it's imperative that we go ahead this," he wrote.

Pvt member's bill

Babu wrote another letter to Horatti on January 17, seeking the chairman's permission to table a private member's bill.

The Karnataka Consumer Protection (Prevention of False Advertisements and Illegal Commercial Practices) Bill, 2026, which Babu seeks to table, aims to protect consumers from being defrauded.

Country witnessing dangerous shift to coercive federalism: CM

'Socialism in India has never been an imported ideology'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah takes part in the conference of South India socialists, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Retired judge of Supreme Court Justice Sudershan Reddy, former MP from Kerala Thampan Thomas and former Kerala minister Isaac Thomas are seen. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Tuesday that the country was witnessing a "dangerous" shift from cooperative federalism to "coercive" federalism.

"Decisions are being made in Delhi, imposed upon the states, and celebrated as reform, even as they suffocate local realities. This is not just a policy issue. It is a threat to the very structure of the Indian Union, executed through financial control, political pressure and constitutional manipulation," Siddaramaiah said while speaking at the conference of South India socialists that discussed issues related to federalism.

The chief minister explained that the idea of India was not of the Centre "ruling" over many states but instead of the many states strengthening one Union.

"Socialism in India has never been an imported ideology. It emerged from our freedom struggle, shaped by Mahatma Gandhi's moral economics, Nehru's social democracy, Lohia's federal vision, and Ambedkar's insistence on social justice and economic democracy," he added.

Former Supreme Court Judge B Sudershan Reddy referred to the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 and the process of converting the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories (Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh).

"The Supreme Court has stamped its approval but did not engage in any substantive discussion as to how a presidential order could amend a constitutional provision and bypass the mechanism for a Constitutional amendment provided for in Article 368."

Referring to Article 371(J) that provides special provisions for the Hyderabad Karnataka (now Kalyana Karnataka) region, he said: "Could it also be abrogated by a Presidential order without amending the Constitution. For incorporating (371) J, you have amended the Constitution, followed the procedure laid down under Article 368 and made it part of the Constitution. Because I do not like the government or for some reason, can you decide to abrogate that particular Constitutional provision which provides some special protection to those areas?"

Speaking on the occasion, senior Congressman and Aland MLA B R Patil felt the proposed delimitation exercise based on the upcoming census would be a "huge blow" to the southern states.

As per the statistics produced by Patil, after delimitation, Uttar Pradesh will have 143 seats (currently 80), Bihar 79 seats (39), MP 52 seats (29), Rajasthan 50 seats (25) and Haryana 18 seats (10).

In contrast, he said Tamil Nadu would merely have 49 seats (currently 39), Karnataka 41 (28), Andhra Pradesh 32 (25), Telangana 22 (currently 17) and Kerala will continue to have 20 seats.

"The above-listed North Indian states will stand to gain 86% more than their existing seats and southern states will gain only 27%," he added.

2026-27 Budget: CM holds meeting with finance dept

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday held a preliminary meeting with the finance department to take stock of the state's fiscal position ahead of the 2026-27 Budget, which is expected to be presented in March.

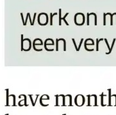
According to a finance department official, there was a general briefing to the chief minister about the fiscal position of the state.

Chief secretary calls out dearth of AI talent in Karnataka

'We don't have months or years left, we have days to come'

BENGALURU, DHNS

SHALINI RAJNEESH
Chief Secretary



"I'm sorry to say, I have been hunting for people to work on my AI project. It's been very difficult.

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh called out the dearth of AI talent in Karnataka while speaking at the AI Impact Pre-Summit Working Group Meeting at the IISc on Tuesday.

"I'm sorry to say, I have been hunting for people to work on my AI project. It's been very difficult. Even the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB) says they're not able to supply data scientists, data analysts and AI analysts," she said, stressing the changes that need to be brought within the state's curriculum across all levels.

"It's not just about changes that need to be brought at the higher education level. Even at the higher secondary level, how do we bring in more capacity-building and more orientation of IT-based skills that are going to be required in the days to come? Now, we don't have months or years left, we have days to come," she added, outlining a strategic vision to embed AI curriculum at the primary education level across all state schools.

In her keynote, the chief secretary highlighted Karnataka's shift from siloed data management to an interoperable Data Lake architecture. "Currently, datasets for farmers, students, land and crops exist in isolation, limiting their value," she stated.

She also cited a breakthrough-use case in agriculture enabled by this new approach, which helped recognise the 300 gram panchayats which required nutrient interventions.

"By integrating crop health and soil nutrient data, we found that out of 6,000 gram panchayats, only 300 required specific nutrient interventions. This precision allows for the rightful allocation of fertilisers, preventing waste and optimising resources," she said.

The top bureaucrat also shared her vision for voice-enabled AI interfaces that allow citizens to interact with government websites in multiple languages, bridging the digital divide while adhering to strict privacy and state regulations.

4-Helix Model

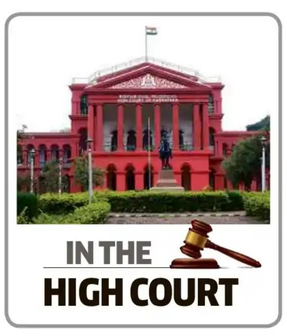
Addressing the gathering, Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Principal Secretary, DPAR (e-Gov), introduced the "Bangalore Dividend"—a 4-helix framework mapping scale, talent, demography and desire to operationalise AI.

He highlighted a critical financial use case involving the Rs 20,000-crore subsidy provided by the Finance Department for 35 lakh irrigation pumpsets. "By leveraging AI to map crop data against water requirements, we can optimise water consumption, reduce soil erosion, and significantly rationalise the subsidy burden," he explained.

He also detailed the institutionalisation of the Karnataka AI Cell (KAIC), and shared details about AI products working towards administrative reforms.

'Anything in garb of free speech?': HC to TV channel over Mahabharata parody

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS



The way characters were depicted was unreadable, says court

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday deprecated a private Kannada television channel depicting mythological characters of Mahabharata in a comedy show.

"Can you do anything you want to under the garb of free speech? Such people don't deserve any indulgence who display Gods, mythological figures as useless," Justice M Nagaprasanna orally observed during the hearing of a petition filed by the channel seeking quashing of the investigation.

The channel challenged the FIR registered by the Subramanyapura police in Bengaluru under BNS Section 299 for deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings.

The complaint, filed by Prasanth Shashidhar Nargund with the Hubballi police, stated that an episode aired on November 15, 2025, had indulged in denigration of mythological characters.

The complaint was transferred to Bengaluru and an FIR was registered at Subramanyapura police station.

The petitioners' counsel submitted that the episode was aired in a show called the 'Comedy Khiladigalu', which focused on fictional villagers, rehearsing a scene from Mahabharata.

The counsel claimed that the show has seen five seasons and that it does not mean to hurt religious sentiments. He further submitted that the procedure of preliminary enquiry was not followed.

On the other hand, the Additional State Public Prosecutor submitted that the show was circulated widely.

Perusing the complaint, the court orally observed that the way characters such as Krishna, Droupadi and Dhritarashtra were depicted was unreadable. It passed an interim order, asking the police not to take coercive steps.

"The petitioners shall participate in the investigation as the matter is still at the stage of crime. The prosecution in the garb of investigation shall not take any coercive steps against the petitioners till the next date of hearing," the court said.

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CHANGE OF NAME
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I, MRS. Rani Priya R spouse/ wife of 740294H Ex Cpl. Sujit Sadasivan R/o S-0358, "USHAS", 7th Cross, BEL Layout II Phase, Viswaneedam (PO) Bangalore 560091, have changed my name from Mrs. Rani Priya R to Mrs. Priya Sujit vide Affidavit dated 19-01-2026 before notary H.R Karunakara

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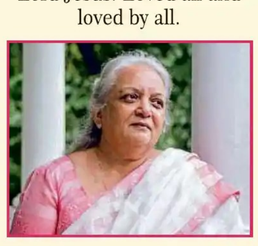

Funeral service will be held at 11.00 am on Thursday, 22nd January 2026, at St. Mark's Cathedral, M G Road, followed by burial at Hosur Road Cemetery, Bangalore.

Omena is survived by her daughters Rachel Matthan (Yasmeen) and Elizabeth Matthan (Reshmi), Son's-in-law Jo and Philip, and grand children, Atishay, Caleb and Joshua.

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Congress, BJP brace for a stormy session over repeal of MGNREGA

Oppn to escalate attack on govt over other issues too

BENGALURU, DHNS

The ruling Congress and the Opposition BJP are bracing for a contentious joint session of the state legislature beginning January 22 and scheduled to continue till January 31.

Confrontations are expected between the two parties over the proposed repeal of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and its replacement with the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission–Gramin (VB-GRAM-G), besides a range of governance-related issues.

While Congress is preparing to pass a resolution opposing the repeal of the UPA-era MGNREGA, the BJP plans to counter what it calls a "misinformation campaign" against the new VB-GRAM-G law.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said, "The joint address by the governor will be followed by a discussion on MGNREGA and passing of the resolution in its favour."

Last week, the cabinet passed a resolution against the repeal and replacement of MGNREGA. The session coincides with the 'MGNREGA Bachao Sangram', a nationwide agitation against the VB-GRAM-G Act.

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra said the Congress is spreading a false narrative.

"We have got a chance to expose the false narrative of the Congress about the new law on the floor of the House. During NDA's tenure, more than Rs 7 lakh crore was spent on MGNREGA. The new law will help stop pilferage of funds and enhance the number of work days from 100 to 125," he said.

Union Steel Minister and JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy, during a joint press meet, assured that the Centre had only "revamped" MGNREGA to strengthen rural livelihoods and improve infrastructure.

The BJP is expected to escalate attacks on the Congress government over the alleged excise (licence) bribery scam, Kogilu Layout evictions, the growing drug menace, the Ballari violence, and concerns over the safety of the government officials.

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka alleged a Rs 2,500-crore liquor bribery scam and demanded the resignation of Excise Minister R B Timmapur after the Lokayukta police arrested three excise officials.

The BJP has accused the government of "double standards" over the Kogilu Layout evictions, demanded Home Minister G Parameshwara's resignation after drug racket busts by Maharashtra police in Bengaluru and the recent Ballari violence that claimed the life of a Congress worker.

The Opposition also flagged Congress leader Rajeev Gowda's alleged misconduct with the Shidlaghatta municipal commissioner as evidence of deteriorating administrative safety.

The joint session is expected to be a challenging one for the ruling Congress, which is putting up a united face amid a power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences hosts AIU VCs' meet

(Left to right) S Ashok Rao, Dr Pankaj Mittal, Dr M R Jayaram, Governor of Karnataka Thawar Chand Gehlot, Dr Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak and Dr Kuldeep Kumar Raina at the inauguration of the meet.

Inaugurating the two-day South Zone Vice Chancellors' Conference 2026, organised by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and hosted by Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS), Thawar Chand Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka, stated that India can transition from a knowledge-based economy to an innovation-driven global superpower only when universities become centres of entrepreneurship. He emphasised on the need to expose youth to the latest knowledge and technologies so that they can enhance their skills, move towards self-employment and contribute meaningfully to national development.

Referring to the theme of the conference, 'Nurturing Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Higher Education Institutions', he said it is highly relevant. "Higher education institutions are hubs of innovation, leadership and nation-building. In the present era of entrepreneurship and innovation, young minds are the greatest asset. With proper guidance, resources and opportunities, their ideas can lead to self-reliance, generate employment and benefit the nation", the governor said.

He lauded RUAS for its visionary academic environment, research initiatives, innovative teaching methodologies and commitment to holistic development. "With modern infrastructure, an interdisciplinary approach, and strong industry linkages, the university provides ample opportunities for students to grow both intellectually and personally", he said.

Dr Kuldeep Kumar Raina, Vice Chancellor, RUAS, said he was happy several vice chancellors shared their views. "Over 120 vice chancellors, senior educationists and academic leaders from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry and Kerala participated in person, while around 100 joined online.

Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak, President, AIU, said, "Instead of preparing students only to be employees, institutions must equip them with knowledge of innovation and encourage them to become entrepreneurs".

Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, AIU and S Ashok Rao, Registrar, RUAS, welcomed the gathering. The valedictory session will be held today at 1 pm. Dr Ganesan Kannabiran, Senior Professor of Management, National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli and Prof S R Niranjan, Vice Chairman, Higher Education Council, will be the chief guests.

Dr M R Jayaram, Chancellor, RUAS and S Ashok Rao, Registrar, proposed the vote of thanks. They expressed gratitude to the distinguished dignitaries, vice chancellors, academicians and delegates for their active participation and valuable deliberations.

Curated by DH Brandspot

VA in Gadag dist writes to Prez for euthanasia nod

Cites 'harassment by higher officials, work pressure'

MUNDARGI (GADAG DIST), DHNS

Yogesh Kurahatti, village accountant (VA) of Dambala hobli in the taluk, has written to President of India Droupadi Murmu, seeking permission to die by euthanasia, alleging 'harassment by higher officials'.

In a letter sent to the President, via the tahsildar office's mail, Kurahatti said he had been undertaking tasks assigned to him, like those on the revenue department's app, e-pothi campaign, works related to crop harvesting and seeding of Aadhaar cards.

Yet, he was being subjected to repeated harassments without reason, by issuing notices to him.

Kurahatti said in the letter that he was under tremendous work pressure and that his salary had been withheld for the last two months 'for not maintaining the work diary'.

Health issues

He says in the letter that he has to take care of a sick mother and that he is himself suffering from health issues. Being without pay was only compounding his woes and hence, he should be allowed to die by euthanasia, he said in the letter.

Reacting to this, tahsildar Yerriswamy P S said that the VA was not discharging his duties towards the public and that of the department satisfactorily.

He hadn't mended his ways despite being issued notices and had not even completed his probationary period so far.

The tahsildar said proper action would be taken with regard to the letter to the President after discussing with higher officials.

DGP Rao suspended over 'obscene conduct'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government suspended DGP K Ramachandra Rao on Tuesday, a day after viral videos purportedly showed him acting obscenely.

Home Minister G Parameshwara indicated that the officer could even be dismissed. The videos purportedly show the 59-year-old Rao, a 1993-batch IPS officer, hugging and kissing women in the office. He has called the videos "fabricated" and vowed to take legal action.

Rao, serving as the Director General of Police, Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE), has been suspended with immediate effect pending a detailed inquiry, according to an official order issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR). The government order stated that videos and news reports widely broadcast on television channels and digital media platforms revealed conduct "unbecoming of a government servant" and caused embarrassment to the government.

"The state government, after examining the matter, is prima facie satisfied that it is necessary to place the officer under suspension pending inquiry," the order said. The suspension has been ordered under Rule 3(1)(a) of the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969.

During the suspension period, Rao will be entitled to subsistence allowance as per rules and has been directed not to leave headquarters without prior written permission of the government. Parameshwara told reporters that an inquiry had been ordered into the incident and asserted that further action would be taken based on the findings. "He can even be dismissed," he added.

K Ramachandra Rao

"He had come to my residence to meet me on Monday, but I was not ready to meet him because such an incident has embarrassed the Home Department," he said. This is not the first time the senior cop has been under the scanner. Last year, he was sent on compulsory leave after his stepdaughter-Kannada actor Ranya Rao was arrested in a high-profile gold smuggling case at the Kempegowda International Airport.

He was recently reinstated and posted to the Civil Rights Enforcement wing. This new scandal has once again put his career in jeopardy.

The Home Department has directed the cyber police to trace the origin of the video and verify its authenticity as part of the ongoing probe.

Panel seeks officer's scalp

The Karnataka State Commission for Women has called for a strict investigation into DGP K Ramachandra Rao's alleged obscene conduct.

In letters to the chief secretary and the state police chief (DG&IGP), the commission asked for the officer to be dismissed from service immediately to ensure a fair inquiry. It has sought an action taken report within seven days.

The commission, taking suo motu cognizance of media reports, noted that the officer appeared to be in uniform during the alleged acts. It said such "vile acts" by a senior officer in a government office create a sense of insecurity among women and erode public trust in the police force.

Commission chairperson Nagalakshmi Chowdhary demanded a high-level inquiry and recommended that the officer be dismissed to set a precedent against workplace sexual misconduct.

CM Siddaramaiah said: "No one is above the law, regardless of their seniority. We have ordered a disciplinary inquiry and placed the officer under immediate suspension."

Ballot papers: We're taking a step back, says Suresh

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former Bangalore Rural Congress MP D K Suresh on Tuesday questioned the use of ballot papers instead of electronic voting machines (EVMs) for the Bengaluru civic polls, making him the first prominent voice from Congress to criticise the decision.

The State Election Commission (SEC) has said that ballot papers will be used for elections to five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

The SEC's decision was based on a September 2025 Cabinet decision favouring ballot papers for local body elections, citing "lack of trust" in EVMs.

"I don't think it's necessary. We had stopped ballot papers. We have taken a step forward. The party high command has to decide if taking a step back is right or wrong," Suresh, the president of the Bangalore Milk Union Ltd, said.

Suresh is the brother of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is in charge of Bengaluru Urban Development.

Suresh also pointed out that the municipal elections would be held under the supervision of the state government and the SEC.

"So, nobody can manipulate (the results)," he said.

Meanwhile, BJP State President B Y Vijayendra (BYV) slammed the move, terming it a "most regressive" decision.

"Instead of continuing with EVMs, which is a progressive piece of development, Congress has chosen to put the technological clock back. This is deplorable," Vijayendra said.

Noting that Karnataka is a progressive state in technological terms, he felt going back to the ballot paper era would be an "utter shame".

"The outcome of polls depends on many factors and not EVMs. Let's not become a laughing stock in the eyes of technocrats across the globe by going back to stone age," he said.

5 killed, 3 critical in MUV head-on collision

RAICHUR, DHNS: Five people died on the spot and three sustained grievous injuries in a head-on collision between two Bolero vehicles near Kannari cross on the Sindhanur-Siruguppa national highway on Tuesday night.

One of the vehicles was transporting sheep from Sindhanur towards Siruguppa and the other one was cominbg from the opposite direction.

The condition of the three injured is stated to be critical. They are admitted at government hospital, Sindhanur.

Superintendent of Police Arunangshu Giri and other officials visited the spot.

Gold theft: ED raids Ballari jeweller

BALLARI, DHNS: Officials of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday raided the premises of Roddam Jewellers and its proprietor Roddam Govardhana with regard to the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple gold theft case.

Inspections continued even after sunset on the premises of the stores on Bengaluru Road.

Govardhana is being investigated for his suspected links with Unnikrishnan, the prime accused in the case.

Personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force were deployed for security in the vicinity of the raided premises.

The ED officials questioned members of Govardhana's family in connection with the case at his Parvati Nagar residence. The special investigation team (SIT) constiututed by the Kerala government for the case had arrested Govardhana on December 19 last year in connection with the case.

SIT officials have freqauently visited the city since October last year.

Govardhana had reportedly got the door of the Ayyappa temple gold-plated in 2019, as also the adjacent poles.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಉಡುಪಿ
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಉನಸ:ಬಿ2:ಟಿಆರ್:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.01.2026
ಟೆಂಡರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ (ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರು) ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ Standard Bid Document K.W - 3 ರ ನಿಯಮ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು (ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವಂತೆ) e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದವರಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.
(1) ತುಂಬಿದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (2) ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.01 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (3) ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ: (1) DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53275/CALL-2, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: 66,75,000.00, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ: 1,00,125.00, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ತಿಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ: 3 ತಿಂಗಳು
ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಸನಿಉ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಪಿಎ/672/25–26 ದಿ: 20.01.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ಸಂ: 16/2025–2026 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–01–2026
ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ KW-4ರ ರೀತಿ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿ: 23–01–2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿ: 20–01–2026 ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿ: 28–01–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 29–01–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 30–01–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.31 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 31–01–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 9 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 1 (ಒಂದು), ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.850.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: 1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ /ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. 2) ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾ.ಇಂ., ಲೋ.ಇ., ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
(ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಜಲನಗರ–586109
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08352–278536 ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ : 08352–222474 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 08352–278532
Website: www.vijayapuracity.mrc.gov.in E-mail: itstaff_ulb_bijapur@yahoo.co.in
ನಂ.ಮನಪಾವಿ:/ಕೇ.ಕಂ/ಪವಿ/2025–26/4677 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.01.2026
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೀದಿನಾಯಿಗಳ ಸಂತಾನ ಹರಣ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಸೇವೆ ಅತೀ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, ಆಸಕ್ತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ KPPP ಪ್ಲಾಟ್‌ಫಾರಂ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತರು ತಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿತ ದಿನಾಂಕದೊಳಗೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪ್ಲಾಟ್‌ಫಾರಂ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಅ. ನಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ
1	Animal Birth Control and Anti Rabies Vaccination of Stray Dogs Programme in City Corporation Vijayapura (INDENT NO: DMA/2025-26/SE6288/CALL-3)	82.50	12 ತಿಂಗಳು

* ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.01.2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ.
* ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.01.2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
* ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.01.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
* ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪ್ಲಾಟ್‌ಫಾರಂನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ / ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪರಿಸರ) ರವರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಘ.ವ.ನಿ)
ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/629/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)
BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:
Office of the Chief Engineer (UWP), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
WWM-P-C. Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM-P-CV)/PB/1501/2025-26 Date : 13.01.2026 (2nd Call)	Rs.33,55,879/- / Rs.67,120/-	28-01-2026 upto 4.00 p.m.	29-01-2026 at 4.30 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-P) C. Valley.
Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

North-1	BWSSB/ENTE/TO/3106/2025-26 Date : 19.01.2026 (3rd Call)	Rs.10,61,093/- / Rs.27,000/-	27-01-2026 upto 4.00 p.m.	28-01-2026 after 4.30 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-1).
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For further details contact the signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO 5127/25-26

Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority
#05, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bangalore - 560009
Telephone: 080 - 22341230/35, e-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com
No. BMICAPA/CLU-03/79/2025-26/2415 Date: 19.01.2026
PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)
Smt G.C Renuka D/o Channegowda has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from "Agriculture" Zone to "Commercial" purpose pertaining to Sy. No: 230/11 extent of 10.08 Guntas and Sy.No.230/12 extent of 07.80 Guntas of Kuduragundi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Maddur Taluk, Mandya District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;
1. By Developing the Commercial Project in the above said land, the general publics will get jobs by Trade/Business transaction.
2. During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for Labourers.
3. Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Convention hall in the above said land.
4. By the development of Commercial area, the Government will get the Taxes in various forms.
Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered
Sd/- Member Secretary
BMICAPA, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/SA/5117/2025-26

Khandre new president of Veerashaiva Mahasabha

BENGALURU, DHNS: Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre was unanimously elected as the President of the All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha on Tuesday. He replaces veteran Congressman Shamanur Shivashankarappa, who passed away on December 14.

Eshwar Khandre

Noting that 30% Lingayats were "extremely backward," Khandre said he would endeavour to provide justice to all.

Stating that Lingayats and Veerashaivas were not different, the newly elected Veerashaiva Mahasabha president said he would endeavour to unite the subsects amongst Lingayats.

He explained that a girls' hostel would be developed in Bengaluru, adding that the foundation stone-laying ceremony would be held by coming March and the project would be completed in one-and-a-half years.

Khandre also pointed out that Veerashaiva Lingayat Bhavans would be built in district centres where they are not there, adding that coaching for Union Public Service Examinations (UPSC) would be given there for aspirants.

Khandre's father Bheemanna Khandre, who passed away recently, had also served as the president of the Mahasabha. Alongside the Rajya Vokkaligara Sangha, the Mahasabha had vociferously opposed the social and educational survey (caste census) conducted by the Kantharaj Commission in 2015 by dubbing it "unscientific."

Ram Madhav is BJP in-charge for GBA polls

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Soon after assuming charge as the Bharatiya Janata Party's national president, Nitin Nabin on Tuesday appointed senior party leaders as in-charges for the forthcoming Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Corporation elections.

Former BJP national general secretary Ram Madhav has been named the election in-charge for the civic polls.

Satish Poonia, former Rajasthan BJP president, and Sanjay Upadhyay, a legislator from Maharashtra, have been appointed as co-in-charges, the party said in a statement.

The GBA elections are expected to be a significant political contest in Karnataka, especially after the Congress came to power in the state in 2023. By entrusting the responsibility to Madhav, a veteran organisational leader, the BJP's central leadership has indicated the importance it attaches to the Bengaluru civic elections.

According to the current plan, the elections are likely to be held between May 25 and June 30. The State Election Commission is considering conducting the polls using ballot papers.

Atrocities against SC/STs rise sharply in state

Poor conviction raises concern over probe quality, delayed justice

BENGALURU, DHNS

Incidents of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (SC/STs) have seen a sharp increase in Karnataka over the past five years, with Bengaluru topping the list of districts reporting the highest number of cases, according to data.

Statistics reveal that while around 2,000 cases were registered in 2021, the number rose to 2,772 in 2025, a 38.6% rise over the five-year period.

Data from the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE) shows that a total of 10,573 atrocity cases were registered in the state in this period.

Of these, 1,598 cases were found to be false, 1,050 cases were dismissed and only 47 cases ended in conviction, raising concerns over investigation quality and delays in the justice delivery system. The conviction rate currently stands at about 10%.

In 2025 alone, Bengaluru reported 261 cases, highest in the state. Tumakuru followed with 139 cases, while Belagavi recorded 128 cases and Raichur 121 cases.

To ensure speedy trials, the state has established 11 special courts dedicated to handling SC/ST atrocity cases. However, activists and legal experts have stressed the need for more effective prosecution and time-bound trials to improve conviction rates and restore faith among victims.

In April 2025, the government set up 33 DCRE police stations aimed at strengthening investigations under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The move, Home Minister G Parameshwara said, was intended to ensure focused enforcement of civil rights laws.

Reacting to the data, advocate Srikant S said the law was enacted to eliminate caste-based discrimination and protect vulnerable communities. However, he noted that in recent times, some cases involving inter-caste relationships and marriages were also being booked under it.

"The Constitution does not prohibit inter-caste marriages. The law must be applied carefully to prevent misuse while ensuring genuine victims receive justice," he said.

K Somaiah, a Dalit activist in Bengaluru, emphasised that the surge in atrocity cases, particularly in the city, shatters the illusion of urban immunity to casteism and reflects a systemic failure to protect the marginalised. "To truly dismantle this hierarchy, we need more than just legal measures, we need community-led awareness programmes, campaigns and street plays," he added.

The activist said until there is a time-bound trial system and a "social vaccine" of grassroots awareness, the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act will continue to struggle against the weight of social prejudices.

Mysuru-Kushalnagar rail project scrapped

MYSURU, DHNS: The proposed Mysuru-Belagola-Kushalnagar railway project has been scrapped, according to sources from the South Western Railway.

Kodagu is a district without any rail connectivity. There has been a demand for a railway line to connect Kodagu with other districts for several decades.

Minister of State for Railways V Somanna had shown interest in implementing the project. A proposal was prepared at a cost of Rs 3,084 crore. The state government was urged to provide land for the project. But the state government had written to the Centre to drop the project.

The Ministry of Railways has now dropped the proposed 89-km-long railway route due to low traffic potential. Additionally, it is said to lack the capacity to generate expected financial returns and is not profitable in the long term.

The Ministry of Railways gave the South Western Railway the nod to do a survey in 2018-19. It was estimated that around 1,379 acres of land was needed for the project. The survey started in June 2022.

Devotee killed in hit-and-run case at Suttur jatre

MYSURU, DHNS: A devotee was killed while another sustained grievous injuries when an unidentified car ran over them while they were sleeping during the Suttur jatre (fair) in Nanjangud taluk, in the early hours of Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as G M Pradeep Kumar (36), a resident of Gattavadi village near Suttur.

The injured, Ravi, who also hails from the same village, is in a critical condition and is being treated at the JSS Hospital in Mysuru.

According to sources, the duo had visited the fair to watch a mythological (pouranika) play and had later fallen asleep near the 'gaddige' of the mutt in Suttur.

The tragedy occurred when a car ran over their heads while they were in deep sleep. The driver of the vehicle did not stop after the incident and fled the scene.

The incident has been captured on the CCTV cameras on the temple premises.

The Biligere police have registered a hit-and-run case and have launched a search for the vehicle and its driver.

State cops can probe graft case...

Police, From Page 1

According to the arrangement, cases of corruption by the central government staff are being investigated by CBI and the cases of bribery by state government employees are being investigated by the state police, it noted.

The CBI also has the power under its constitution to investigate any case of the nature which includes offences against the central government employees, or concerning affairs of the central government and employees of central public-sector undertakings and public sector banks, cases involving financial interests of the central government etc, the bench said.

The bench emphasised that it is for convenience and to avoid duplication of work that the CBI - a specialised investigating agency under the Special Police Establishment - is entrusted with investigating corruption cases against central government employees and its undertakings while and the ACB - a specialised investigating agency of the state - is entrusted with investigating cases of corruption against employees of state government and its undertakings.

The bench also pointed out that the Criminal Procedure Code (now BNSS) is the parent statute which provides for investigation and inquiry into and trial of cases and unless there is specific provision in another statute to indicate a different procedure to be followed, its provisions cannot be displaced.

The court also underscored that Section 156 of CrPC authorises any police officer in charge of a police station to investigate a cognisable offence without the order of the magistrate.

"The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) is also a wing of state police. The offences under the PC Act are also cognisable and can, therefore, be investigated by the state police or VACB," the court said.

The only rider is that the investigation can be done only by a police officer of the rank specified in Section 17 of the PC Act, it added.

In the present case, the bench said, "The high court has taken the correct view while saying that it is incorrect to say that it is only the CBI who could have instituted the prosecution."

Investors take a Rs 9L-cr hit as markets tumble

Market, From Page 1

"Persistent foreign institutional selling, along with a weaker currency environment, further weighed on investor confidence and kept risk appetite restrained throughout the session," Mishra added.

The rupee depreciated to close at a record low of Rs 90.98 against the US dollar. Analysts expect further depreciation in the value of the Indian currency.

"The currency remains range-bound with participants awaiting fresh triggers from the Union Budget due on February 1, while the US Fed's policy decision later this month is expected to add volatility. The rupee is likely to trade between 90.45 and 91.45 in the near term," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

Trade tensions between the US and European countries over US President Donald Trump's aggressive stance on acquisition of Greenland have led to selloff in the equities markets globally.

"The volatility in the market is likely to continue in the near-term till some clarity emerges regarding the US-Europe standoff on Greenland tariffs," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited.

Meanwhile, gold and silver surged to fresh record highs, with spot gold crossing $4,725 per ounce and silver breaching $95 per ounce. The MCX gold rose above Rs 1,50,000 per 10 grams while MCX silver surged past Rs 3,26,000 per kg.

"Fresh tariff announcements by Trump, including a 10% levy on EU nations, have revived concerns over global trade and cast doubts on the progress of a US–India trade deal," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities. Gold is expected to remain volatile with a positive bias, trading in a broad range of Rs 1,42,000–Rs 1,55,000 in the coming days, Trivedi said.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast Jan 21: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	29.6	12.2	00
Bidar	30.5	14.8	00
Vijayapura	30	11.5	00
Dharwad	30	12.6	00
Haveri	30.6	12.6	00
Kalaburagi	32.8	17.2	00
Raichur	30.6	13.4	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	30.5	17.9	00
Karwar	32.4	18.4	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	30.8	20.4	00

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	29	14.8	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	30.5	13.6	00
Davangere	30	11	00
Hassan	31.2	11.7	00
Mysuru	31	15	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	29.6	09	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	26.7	7.2	00
Kolkata	27	13	00
Mumbai	28.5	16	00
Chennai	30.1	19.3	00
Pune	30.4	12.5	00
Hyderabad	31.7	17.5	00
Th'puram	32.1	22.9	00

India, EU on cusp of historic trade...

Trade, From Page 1

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has described the proposed India-EU free trade agreement as the "mother of all deals".

"We have done FTA deals with seven developed countries so far. This one (EU) will be the mother of all. It will cover two of the world's most powerful economies," Goyal told reporters in New Delhi last week.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said last week that India and the EU have fully closed 20 of the 24 negotiating chapters and are working to wrap up the remaining ones.

India and the EU first launched negotiations for a free trade agreement in 2007. The talks were suspended in 2013 due to a gap in ambition. The negotiations were re-launched in June 2022. The proposed trade deal is now officially called the India–EU Free Trade Agreement (India–EU FTA). During the 2007-2013 negotiations, it was named Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA),

"Once concluded, this would be India's largest FTA in both economic size and regulatory scope. As the EU is a customs union, the agreement would give India preferential access to all 27 EU countries under a single framework," said Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) founder Ajay Srivastava.

The EU is India's biggest trade partner with bilateral trade in goods recording $137 billion in the financial year 2024-25. Trade balance is in favour of India. India exported about $76 billion of goods to the EU while importing $61 billion during the year.

The EU agreement would be India's ninth trade deal concluded in the last four years. Other FTAs include agreements with Mauritius, the UAE, Australia, New Zealand, Oman, the EFTA bloc, the UK and members of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

The EU is one of the world's richest and most stable markets with a GDP of roughly 18–22 trillion euro and 45 crore high-income consumers. A favourable deal with the EU would help Indian firms better absorb shocks from higher US tariffs.

For the European exporters, the FTA would unlock significant opportunities in aircraft, machinery, chemicals and other high-value manufactured goods, while expanding access in services, government procurement and investment.

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, (QA/QC), 1st Floor, Commercial Complex, 9th Cross Road, 9th Main Road, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Benguluru-560011.

No: EE(QA/QC)/Z-2/BSCC/TEND/02/2025-26 Date: 17-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance / Quality Control Division Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) invites Request for Proposal from interested Persons / Firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for the below work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Additional works to Badminton Court at Tavarekere Park and Samudaya bhavana / Communitty Hall Adjacent to Indira Canteen SG Palya and Comprehensive Development and Improvements of Tavarekere Park, Kuvempu Park, 16th Main Road Parks and Play ground, Indira Gandhi Park by Providing Pathway, Ornamental grill Gym and Children Equipments, Electrical lightings, Watchman Qtrs and other Improvements to Parks and Play Grounds in BTM Layout Constituency (Package No. 01). **Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 1100.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 41,250/-.**
2	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Additional works to NGV Auditorium, Tensile roofing to Skating ground and Comprehensive Development of Parks Play Ground at NGV Premises at Ganesha Temple road, Rangavendra School Opposite Park, Beautyspot Park Jakkasandra and Adugodi Blocks and Surrounding Parks and Playground Improvements in BTM Layout Constituency (Package No. 02). **Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 1000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 37,500/-.**
3	Providing PMC Services including Supervision. Quality control for Construction of ESI Hospitals, BBMP Office Building at Koramangala 5th Block, Ambedkar Samudhaya Bhavana and Additional Improvements to Samudhaya Bhavana and Improvements to Roads, drains, Footpath and over all developments at ward No. 177, 178, 179, 180 and surrounding works in BTM Layout Constituency (Package No. 03). **Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 1300.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 48,750/-.**
4	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Construction of Samudhaya and Additional Floor to Kempegowda Samudhaya Bhavana at ward No. 176 and 174 Ejipura School, RCC Box drain at Service Road from 5th Main Road to HSR Signal and Comprehensive development of Roads, drains, Culverts and other Improvements in BTM Layout Constituency (Package No. 04). **Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 1300.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 48,750/-.**
5	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Comprehensive Development works to roads, drains, footpath, Repairs to Building and construction of culverts in Madduramma colony, repair works to AEE Office BTM Layout, improvement works to Priyadarshini Park and other works in Balajinagara Ist ABCD Cross, Venkateshwara Layout, Jogi colony in ward No 152 and Resurfacing to Adugodi Main road and 8th cross road BTM 1st stage and other Improvement works In Surrounding areas of Adugodi, BTM Layout and Koramangala Sub Division In BTM Layout Constituency (No. of 7 Works) (Package No.05). **Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 1550.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-**
6	Providing PMC Serviees Including Supervision, Quality control for Comprehensive Development works to roads, drains, Footpath, Repairs to Building and construction of culverts and Improvements of drains In Narayangowda Layout, BTM Ist stage, Roopenanagara, Vishya Bank colony, Puspa Layout, HBCS Layout, BTM 2nd Stage and Resurfecing to ORR from Jayadeva to Silk Board, 31st Main Road and other Improvement works in Surrounding areas of Adugodl, Btm Layout and Koramangala Sub Division in BTM Layout Constituency (No, of 09 Works) (Package No.06). **Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 1500.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-**
7	Providing PMC Services Including Supervision, Quality control for Comprehensive Development works to roads, drains, footpaths. Repairs to Building and construction of culverts, Development of Bethany ground and 'B' Mona and other Parks and Playgrounds In BTM Layout Constituency and Improvements of drains in VGS Layout ST Bed, Ashwini Layout, 7th Block Koramanagala, Grape Garden, Nadugudde, Srinivagilu, Venkatapura, Jakkasandra, HSR 5th Sector, Teacher Colony and Resurfacing to 7th cross Ejipura Main road, and other Improvement works in Surrounding areas of Adugodl, BTM Layout and Koramangala Sub Division in BTM Layout Constituency (No. of 7 Works) Package No.07. **Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 1950.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 58,500/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 21-01-2026. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **27-01-2026 at 11.30 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Fourth Floor, Jayanagara Commercial Complex, 30th Cross Road, 9th Main Road, Jayanagar 4th Block, Benguluru - 560011. 3)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: **04-02-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **05-02-2026 at 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Zone-2, BSCC.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U. R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL AIRPORT ROAD, VIMANAPURA POST, BENGALURU - 560 017.
Phone: 080 2508-4185, 4156
BRIEF TENDER NOTICES

1.On behalf of the President of India, **item-rate** tender is invited for the following work:

Description	Details
Name of work	External power supply works to CISF Barracks at Marathahalli, Bengaluru.
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C&MG/E/C/18/2025-26 Dt. 13/01/2026
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 58.43 Lakhs
Period of completion in months	Seven (07) Months
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 1,16,860/- valid for 180 Days**

2.Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Malleshwaram Zone,
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division,
BWCC Building, No.161, 1st Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block,
Near Old Navarang Bus Stop, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru - 560010.

No: EE(RNR)/KPPP/TEND/05/2025-26/Call-2 Date: 20-01-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Single Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites Tender from eligible Tenderers registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with PWD / CPWD or any State Government Organization for the Work detailed below.

(Standard Tender Documents - KW-1 & 2)

Sl. No.	Name of the Works / Category
1	Improvements of drains and providing Asphalting to 1st, 2nd Main, 3rd Main, 4th Main & Surrounding Roads at 1st Stage KHB Colony, Basaveshwaranagara in Ward No.134 Kamakshipalya (Call-2). **(Cat-II(A)). Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 42.37, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 43,000/-.**
2	Improvements of drains and providing Asphalting to 6th Main, 6th Cross, 2nd A Main & Surrounding Roads at 1st Stage K H B Colony, Basaveshwaranagara in Ward No.134, Kamakshipalya (Call-2). **(Others). Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 42.37, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85,000/-.**
3	Construction of Public Toilet for Bashyam Nagar Park for Walkers in Ward No.129 Dayanandanagar (Call-2). **(SC). Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 16.91, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 23,000/-.**
4	Providing of new Entrance Arch to Bhovi Colony, Basaveshwaranagara Ward No.133, Basaveshwara nagara (Call-2). **(SC). Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 21.18, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 22-01-2026, 17.30 Hours onwards. 2)** Last Date and Time for Uploading the Tender Documents: **04-02-2026 upto 17.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date for receipt of queries on: **03-02-2026. 4)** Date of Opening of Financial Document on: **05-02-2026 at 17.30 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division, Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC.

ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಸಿಂಧನೂರು

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಕಾಸಿಂ:ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ:ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–01–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಸಿಂಧನೂರು ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಸನ್ 2020–21ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಿಂದ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವರೆಗೆ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿತ ಹಾಗೂ ಮುಕ್ತ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿದ ಅನುದಾನಗಳಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ:52741ಕಾಲ್–3) ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–2 ರ ಷರತ್ತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಐಟಂವಾರು ಬಿಡ್ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ ತಮ್ಮ ದರಗಳನ್ನು http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27–01–2026 @ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28–01–2026 @ 4:45 ರ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಮತ್ತು ಸಿಂಧನೂರು ನಗರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮರ್ಪಕವಾಗಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ತುರ್ವಿಹಾಳ ಪಟ್ಟಣದ ಹತ್ತಿರ ತುಂಗಭದ್ರ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ಕಾಲುವೆಯ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆರೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (Project Management Consultancy and Supervising of Construction of Lower Impounding Reservoir for Supplying Drinking Water to Sindhanur City at Turvihal Village Sindhanur Taluk, Raichur District) ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮಾಲೋಚಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2024-25/SE4358/CALL-5 ಕೆ.ಸಿ.–4 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟನ ಷರತ್ತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಅರ್ಹ ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮಾಲೋಚಕರು/ ಏಜೇನ್ಸಿದಾರರಿಂದ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಿಂಧನೂರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ದೈನಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರಿಗೆ ಮಾಡೆಲ್ 2023 ಅಥವಾ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಹಳದಿ ನಾಮ ಫಲಕವುಳ್ಳ ಒಂದು ಹವಾ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿತ ವಾಹನವನ್ನು ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ:: DMA/2025-26/SE6542/CALL-3) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾಟ್ಯಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ರನ್ವಯ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಬಿಡ್ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ/ಏಜೇನ್ಸಿಯವರು/ವಾಹನದ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ ತಮ್ಮ ದರಗಳನ್ನು http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–02–2026 @ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05–02–2026 @ 4:45 ರ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.sindhanurcity.mrc.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆದು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಅಥವಾ ಇನ್ನೀತರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಟಿಪಿ– ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಚುರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ ಸಿಂಧನೂರು

DIP/RCR/667/KSMCA/670/2025-26

India to withdraw officials' kin from Bangladesh amid security fears

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Tuesday decided to withdraw the families of its officials posted in Bangladesh in view of the security scenario in that country.

New Delhi's move comes weeks before parliamentary elections are to be held in Bangladesh.

Given the security situation, as a precautionary measure, we have advised the dependents of our officials in high commissions and posts to return to India, official sources said.

The mission and all posts in Bangladesh continue to remain open and operational, they said. Apart from the high commission in Dhaka, India has diplomatic posts in Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet.

It is not immediately known when the families of the diplomats and other officials will return to India.

It is learnt that India has decided to make Bangladesh a "non-family" destination for Indian diplomats and officials in view of safety concerns following increasing activities of extremist elements in that country.

In the neighbourhood, Pakistan is also a "non-family" destination for Indian diplomats and officials.

The relations between India and Bangladesh came under strain after the interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus came to power following the collapse of the Sheikh Hasina government in August, 2024.

India has been expressing concerns over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in that country.

TN guv walks out of Assembly again without reading speech

CM Stalin vows to scrap customary address

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

After Governor RN Ravi walked out of the Tamil Nadu Assembly without delivering the customary address for the third consecutive year on Tuesday, Chief Minister MK Stalin announced that the DMK will work with "like-minded" parties to amend the Constitution and do away with the practice of the governor's address.

As Ravi stormed out of the House after the state anthem was rendered, Stalin moved a resolution to treat the governor's address as "read" in the House. He accused the governor of violating constitutional provisions, legislative rules and long-established conventions.

The CM said it was unfair for the governor to remain adamant about not reading the customary address year after year.

"If one person continues to flout the custom, it is natural to question the need for such rules. With the support of like-minded parties, the DMK will pursue amending the Constitution in Parliament to abolish the practice," he said.

Within minutes of Ravi walking out of the Assembly, the Lok Bhavan issued a three-page statement alleging that the governor's microphone was repeatedly switched off, preventing him from speaking, and claiming that the address contained numerous unsubstantiated and misleading statements.

"Several crucial issues troubling the people have been ignored... There is widespread discontent among lower-rung employees in almost all sectors. They are restive and frustrated, with no mention of ways to address their genuine grievances," the statement added.

The governor's office cited the absence of the national anthem along with the state anthem at the start of his address, and 12 other reasons, for Ravi's refusal to read out the speech prepared by the DMK government.

However, PDT Achary, former Lok Sabha secretary-general, told *DH* that the governor's role is to merely deliver the address prepared by the government and that he has no "excuse".

"The Constitution says the governor has to inform the legislature of the causes for convening the House. By not addressing the House, the governor is acting against the Constitution," he said.

Achary also said that the Constitution makes it clear the governor can act only on the advice of the Council of Ministers, a matter settled long ago by the SC. "The governor has no independent function. He must act according to the Cabinet's advice and cannot refuse to read the address. That option is not available to him," Achary added.

In 2022, during his first address to the Assembly, Ravi read the prepared speech but skipped certain portions. In 2023, he altered the text by adding his own words before walking out. In 2024, he read only the opening paragraph before exiting. In 2025 and 2026, he stormed out without reading the speech at all.

Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi being accorded a Guard of Honour on the first day of the Assembly session on Tuesday. PTI

SHOWDOWN CONTINUES

- Governor cites absence of national anthem for refusal to read speech
- Lok Bhavan alleges mic was switched off and speech had misleading claims
- Ravi has a pattern of walkouts since 2022
- In 2023, he read the address after making changes
- In 2024, 2025 and 2026, he refused to read the address & walked out

Kerala guv accused of omitting portions critical of Centre

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday accused Governor Rajendra Arlekar of making modifications to the government's policy address delivered in the Assembly on Tuesday.

After Arlekar completed the address and exited the House, Vijayan said the governor had omitted portions critical of the Centre that were part of the Cabinet-approved draft.

"As per the Constitution, the policy address approved by the Cabinet will prevail," the CM said.

Speaker AN Shamneer also clarified that the full text of the policy address would be treated as read.

Lok Bhavan sources said the governor's office had asked the government to remove certain portions of the policy address that were "factually incorrect". Though the government responded positively, it did not send a revised draft. In this context, the governor omitted those portions while delivering the address.

The omitted sections related to the state's alleged financial difficulties caused by the Centre and the delay in the governor's assent to bills passed by the Assembly.

The following portions were omitted by the governor: "Despite these social and institutional achievements, Kerala continues to face severe fiscal stress arising from a series of adverse Union Government actions that undermine the constitutional principles of fiscal federalism."

"Bills passed by state legislatures have remained pending for prolonged periods. My government has approached the Supreme Court on these issues, which have been referred to a Constitution bench."

However, other portions accusing the Centre of imposing restrictions on borrowing limits and reducing the state's tax share were read out by the governor.

The governor also said that the recent amendment to the MGNREGA, transforming it into VB-G RAM G, is a setback for Kerala. He added that central assistance has fallen from 100% to 60%.

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar addresses legislators in the Kerala Assembly on the first day of the Budget session in Thiruvananthapuram. PTI

Modi govt wants poor to starve to death: Rahul

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW DHNS

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of trying to 'centralise' power, hand it over to the bureaucracy and leave the poor citizens to 'starve to death'.

Rahul, who was on a visit to his LS constituency of Raebareli, said that the present BJP government was 'hiding behind a façade of religion' and it must be 'unmasked'. He lashed out at the NDA government for scrapping MGNREGA and instead implementing the VB-G RAM G.

He said that the concept of MGNREGA included giving financial responsibilities to the Panchayats and ensuring a minimum wage for the poor citizens.

"Narendra Modi wants to centralise power, hand it over to the bureaucracy and leave the poor citizens to starve to death," he added.

Rahul said that the financial security had been removed from the act in the name of reforming it.

He also decried the removal of the name of Mahatma Gandhi from the Act and said that the RSS and Modi wanted to wipe out the ideology of Dr B R Ambedkar and Gandhi from the country.

He also held a 'chaupal' (meeting) at Umran village in the district, where he interacted with the electorate and discussed their problems.

SIR process legislative in nature, EC tells SC

Says obligated to ensure only citizens enrolled as voters

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Election Commission on Tuesday contended before the Supreme Court that its order on special intensive revision of electoral rolls in various states was legislative in character, as it laid down a complete set of principles and documents prescribed.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi was informed by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi for the poll panel that the legal schemes governed the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.

Citing Section 62 of the Representation of Peoples Act, he submitted that voter registration is subject to specific statutory conditions, and Articles 324 to 326 of the Constitution, read with Section 19 of the Act, impose a constitutional obligation on the poll panel to ensure that only citizens are enrolled as voters.

He contended that SIR does not proceed on the assumption that every elector must submit documentary proof. "It is not a case where no presumption has been attached at all," he said.

Dwivedi said that the nature of the SIR inquiry is fundamentally different from ordinary verification exercises.

He submitted that if a voter could establish lineage to those earlier entries, no documents were required, and documents were sought only in cases where linkage could not be established.

"Only where such linkage is unavailable have this court's directions required the production of 11 specified documents, including Aadhaar," the counsel said.

He said that voters whose names appeared on earlier electoral rolls, those up to June 2025, were given presumptive validity if they could establish a linkage with their parents' names in previous lists.

The court was told that enumeration forms were issued to all voters up to June 2025, consequently conferring probative value even to the 2002 electoral rolls.

The counsel said the booth-level officers (BLOs) were empowered to submit up to 50 forms per day. He said that the exercise involved a house-to-house survey with pre-filled forms, requiring only signatures from voters.

"It would be highly improper to lift facts from one case, such as in West Bengal, and apply them mechanically to a different scenario where the SIR has been conducted in an entirely distinct manner," Dwivedi said.

ROLL ROW

- EC clarifies that SIR doesn't proceed with assumption that every elector must submit proof
- Says nature of the SIR fundamentally different from ordinary verification exercises
- Argues improper to lift facts from one case, such as in Bengal, and apply to other scenarios

Police personnel detain Congress supporters during a protest march over the SIR, outside the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer's office, in Kolkata on Tuesday. PTI

Flawed system causing havoc: Netaji's kin slams SIR

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The grandnephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has described the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in West Bengal as a "flawed" process, after he had to appear before Election Commission officials appointed to defend his right to remain on the rolls.

Chandra Kumar Bose, the grandson of Netaji's elder brother Sarat Chandra Bose, countered the EC's claim that he had been served the notice because he had left a key column on the enumeration form given to him.

"A flawed system, done in a hurried manner, without proper training of the staff, is causing havoc!" Chandra, who was with the BJP till a couple of years ago, said.

Chandra Kumar Bose

He almost lent his support to the ruling Trinamool Congress, which alleged that the "unplanned, arbitrary and ad hoc" exercise, launched by the EC, at the behest of the BJP, had resulted in harassment for people of West Bengal.

"I had no issue that I was called for the hearing, but I do have an issue seeing voters who are aged standing in the queue and falling sick," he posted on X on Tuesday.

He is among many eminent personalities who have received notices from the EC. The others include Nobel-laureate economist Amartya Sen, Bengali film star Dev, cricketer Mohammed Shami, industrialist Swapan Sadhan Basu, and eminent litterateur Joy Goswami.

The EC claimed that Chandra had been served notice because he had not filled a column where a voter had to give the details about their enrolment in the 2002 rolls. "Neither did I make a mistake nor leave the column to link 2002 vacant without a reason. The list provided by EC of 2002 SIR did not reflect my name at the time of filling up the 'Enumeration Form'. I was therefore asked to leave it vacant," he said.

"Later, after submission of the enumeration form, my name was found in another list of 2002 SIR. I had requested to update this information, but evidently, it was not possible," added Chandra, who had in 2016 contested, and lost, against CM Mamata Banerjee, on a BJP ticket.

PM spent Rs 2 crore on samosas during visit to tribal area: Kejriwal

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Monday attacked the BJP government, alleging that Rs 50 crore was spent on a recent visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to a tribal area, including Rs 2 crore on samosas alone.

Arvind Kejriwal

The former Delhi chief minister claimed, citing a response obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, that the expenditure was incurred by the Narmada district administration for organising the PM's public event.

"Why are tribal areas still the most backward despite billions being spent every year? If the money were spent honestly, we could build good hospitals, schools, provide free electricity and roads, but the funds never reach the people," Kejriwal said while addressing party workers in Vadodara on the final day of his three-day Gujarat visit.

Kejriwal said an RTI filed by AAP MLA from Dediapada, Chaitar Vasava, revealed that Rs 50 crore was spent to organise the prime minister's public gathering in the Narmada district. He was referring to the November 15 event, Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, held to mark the 150th birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda.

"It was good that the country's prime minister came and that a big event was organised. But Vasava sought details under RTI on how much money was spent from the Adivasi fund," Kejriwal said.

"According to the RTI response, the district administration spent Rs 50 crore, including Rs 5 crore on pandals, Rs 7 crore on buses and Rs 2 crore on samosas. Who ate samosas worth Rs 2 crore from the tribal fund?" he asked.

Kejriwal questioned why funds from the central government were not used for the event.

"The prime minister could have spent Rs 20 crore or Rs 30 crore on samosas, but why take the money from the tribal fund? With Rs 2 crore, several hospitals and schools could have been built in tribal areas," he claimed.

The AAP leader has been frequently visiting Gujarat as part of preparations for the 2027 Assembly elections.

Army seeks Governor Bose's intervention over Mamata's SIR allegations

KOLKATA, PTI: The Indian Army's Eastern Command has sought the intervention of West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose in connection with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's recent allegation that a senior army officer was using the command base at Fort William and working on the SIR exercise at the behest of the BJP.

According to a senior official at the Lok Bhavan, two Army generals from Fort William, the command headquarters, met Governor Bose last week and submitted a communication which reportedly objected to Banerjee's claims.

Although the details of what transpired at the meeting were not clear, the official said that Bose had taken serious note of the matter and brought it to the attention of competent authorities at the Centre.

"The army officers are understood to have spoken to the Governor and requested his intervention in the matter. The Army is peeved with the chief minister's recent remarks suggesting that a commandant of the forces was working for the BJP while remaining posted at Fort William," the official said.

Without elucidating further details on the identity of the officer concerned, the CM claimed on January 13 that the Army personnel was using the command base to carry out political activities in the wake of the controversial SIR.

Nitin Nabin takes charge as BJP prez; Modi calls him 'my boss'

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Nitin Nabin formally assumed charge as BJP president on Tuesday at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Amit Shah, outgoing party chief JP Nadda and several other leaders.

Presiding officer K Laxman handed Nabin the certificate of election. In his welcome address, Modi said that Nabin is now his boss within the party.

"The idea is that Modi is prime minister, and has been so for the third time in a row. But for me, a matter of pride is that I am a BJP karyakarta, and Nitin Nabin is my boss. He is the president for all of us, and his responsibility will be to manage the BJP and coordinate with the NDA," Modi said in his speech. He added that Nabin will now write his confidential report (CR) and that he looks forward to his guidance.

Nitin Nabin assumes charge as the BJP's new national president in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and JP Nadda, and general secretary BL Santhosh in New Delhi. PTI

In remarks that also carried a political tone ahead of the upcoming elections, Modi said no country accepts infiltrators, and India will not do so either. "India will never allow infiltrators to loot its people and the services that belong to the poor. Infiltrators are the biggest threat to the country and they should be sent back. Political parties that are trying to protect infiltrators must be exposed," he said.

In a bid to connect with the younger generation, Modi described Nabin as a millennial. "To put it in the language of today's youth, Nitin ji himself is, in a way, a millennial. He belongs to the generation that received information from the radio in their childhood and is now an active user of AI."

Modi also touched upon the upcoming Assembly elections. "In the next few months, elections will be held in Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala, Puducherry and West Bengal. There is a lot of discussion on the demography in these states—how an altered demography has presented challenges for us. But we are fully confident that BJP workers will help us win in all five states," he said.

'Politics a responsibility'

In his first address after he took over as party president, Nabin said politics is a responsibility, not a luxury or comfort. He said that the BJP is the only party where one does not need to be part of any family or dynasty to rise through the ranks.

He said that the first challenge for him will be the upcoming Assembly polls. "I am confident that despite the challenges we will face, the party's karyakartas, will help us win."

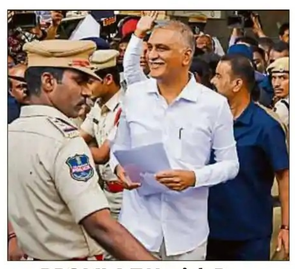
Harish Rao quizzed for 7 hrs in phone-tapping case

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

In Telangana's ongoing phone-tapping case, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) sleuths questioned former minister and BRS MLA T Harish Rao for nearly seven hours on Tuesday.

The session began with three hours in the morning, paused for lunch, and resumed afterwards. Heavy police deployment surrounded Jubilee Hills Police Station, where the interrogation took place, creating a tense atmosphere outside. As questioning continued, BRS supporters raised slogans, forcing police to disperse the protesters.

Emerging from the session,



BRS MLA T Harish Rao arrives to appear before the SIT as part of enquiry into the phone tapping case, in Hyderabad, on Tuesday. PTI

Harish Rao claimed the SIT probe against him was meant to divert public attention from the escalating tussle between Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, which has now spilled onto the streets. He reiterated his respect for the law, pledging to appear for questioning whenever summoned.

Branding the Revanth Reddy government as a "den of scams", Harish Rao said that the chief minister had filed numerous cases against him to trap him.

Warning that the government might leak selective clips from the interrogation, he demanded the release of the full video. He added that the notices served on BRS leaders would only hasten the Congress party's downfall.

Harish Rao also questioned his involvement, asking how he could be implicated since he was never home minister authorised to order phone tapping.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

The missing restraint in campaign rhetoric

The Prime Minister is the head of government and the chief political executive of the country. Every Prime Minister practises politics because he or she wins and holds office through a process based on political contestation. But there are limits to that politics, set by the responsibilities that go with the office of the head of government, which by definition in a democracy, is a government of all people. Narendra Modi has been among India's most political prime ministers, and he has changed the country's politics more than, perhaps, all his predecessors. Many of his statements, especially during election campaigns, have not reflected the responsibilities of his office, but the political imperatives of his party. The statements he made in the last few days in West Bengal and Assam, where Assembly elections are due, are politically divisive and do not befit the office he holds.

In West Bengal, he launched a blistering attack on the ruling Trinamool Congress with the claim that illegal migration was being perpetuated by the "patronage and syndicate" of that party and its government. He said a BJP government, if it assumes office in the state, would take "big action" to crack down on the infiltrators and stop "illegal migration". The Prime Minister also blamed the Congress party for the infiltration of Bangladeshis in Assam. This blame is misplaced, considering that it is the central government's responsibility to protect the nation's borders and prevent infiltration. State governments have no role in it and are not equipped for the task. The border with Bangladesh is manned by the Border Security Force (BSF) under the Union Home Ministry. If there is infiltration, the BSF and the central government are answerable for that lapse, not the state government. It must be noted that the alleged presence of infiltrators in the country's voters' lists is a major political issue raised by the BJP and its leaders. But the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) has not yet established this infiltration of the rolls.

PM's 'illegal infiltration' charges misplace accountability and stretch the political limits of his office

The Prime Minister said differences are emerging in language because of infiltration. He also made references to "changes" in demography. These are expressions with connotations that may go beyond the context of infiltration. The Prime Minister has made such remarks in the past as well. Their implications are not limited to infiltration from across a national border; their fallout may be more immediate and internal, in the marking of new boundaries among the citizens of the country.

Recurring lapses, falling trust

The suspension of DGP (Civil Rights Enforcement) K Ramachandra Rao over a sleaze tape is a deeply unsettling moment for Karnataka's police establishment. Leaked videos allegedly show the officer in compromising situations with women, some of them inside his official chamber, and in certain instances while he was in uniform. The acts appear consensual, but that offers no shield. Rule 3 of All India Services (Conduct) Rules mandates that a member of the service maintain high ethical standards, integrity and honesty, and refrain from conduct unbecoming of a public servant. Such moral turpitude constitutes a serious violation. What makes the episode more disturbing is that this is the second instance in close succession where a senior police officer has been suspended under the same conduct rule, although not for a similar offence; the earlier case involved Ballari SP Pavan Nejjur. The frequency of such actions points to a deeper erosion of institutional discipline rather than isolated lapses.

Karnataka is no stranger to sleaze tapes. Over the years, several politicians have been caught on camera, only to dismiss the material as morphed or AI-generated and walk away unscathed. Rao has adopted a similar line of defence. That argument, however, has lost much of its force after the Prajwal Revanna case, where the police used advanced forensic methods to establish both authenticity and identity beyond doubt, culminating in a life sentence. In that context, Rao's claim that the videos are fabricated must be subjected to similar rigorous scientific scrutiny. The officer is not without controversy. In 2014, when he was Inspector General of Police of the Southern Range, his name surfaced in the Kerala bus cash seizure case, where policemen intercepted a Kerala-bound bus and allegedly seized over Rs 2 crore, while officially recording only Rs 20 lakh. More recently, his stepdaughter's arrest in a gold smuggling case – where misuse of police protocol was alleged – has placed him under renewed scrutiny.

Misconduct and criminal tendencies in Karnataka's police force point to institutional decay

It is against this backdrop that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's recent remarks assume significance. Addressing senior police officers, he expressed anguish that 88 police personnel were booked in criminal cases over the past year, calling it "shameful". He also expressed embarrassment that the Maharashtra police had busted drug manufacturing units in Mysuru and Bengaluru while the local police remained unaware. The problem persists because grave misconduct by senior officers rarely results in serious consequences beyond suspension and departmental inquiry. Until accountability becomes decisive rather than optional, public trust in the police will continue to erode.

BEHIND HEADLINE NUMBERS

The Budget's real test is in building resilience

India's sweet spot masks persisting vulnerabilities. A pragmatic reading can set the tone for sustained growth

AJIT RANADE

On February 1, the Finance Minister will present the Union Budget for the next fiscal year against a macroeconomic backdrop that would be the envy of the world. India's growth forecasts have been revised upwards by major institutions like the IMF. The quarterly GDP numbers suggest upward momentum. And consumer inflation has drifted to strikingly low levels, even lower than the RBI's comfort band.

This combination of high growth and low inflation is a "sweet spot" called a Goldilocks economy. The temptation is to conclude that macroeconomic management is fine and that the task of policy is simply to preserve the trajectory.

However, a more careful reading is warranted. Not because the headline numbers are "wrong", but because the forces producing them are uneven, potentially reversible, and not fully aligned with growth that leads to inclusive prosperity. The Budget should therefore treat the current configuration as a window to strengthen foundations, not as a reason to relax.

The first issue is to understand the current "low inflation". In October 2025, the inflation was as low as 0.25%. A significant part of this disinflation is explained by food prices, which have moved from double-digit inflation in October 2024 to outright deflation a year later, turning negative 5%. Food has high weight in the CPI basket, and that's why the latter is low. This consumption reality still dominates food inflation. The "core" inflation outside of food and fuel has been stubbornly higher, close to 4%. This low CPI inflation tells us more about agricultural price cycles, supply conditions, and weak underlying demand. That is why the monetary policy debate has an unusual note of caution and not of jubilation. Low inflation, driven mainly because farm prices have stagnated or fallen, does not mean that it will last.

The second issue is farm wages. Food deflation lowers the CPI, but it can also compress incomes for farmers. Low food inflation can therefore coexist with rural distress. This becomes relevant for the Budget because the credibility of high growth depends on demand being broad-based. If rural incomes and wages stagnate, consumption remains fragile. If consumption is fragile, private investment has less reason to accelerate. The current moment, therefore, should be read as a possible signal that the growth process is uneven. The most consequential concern, perhaps, is the persistence of weak rural wage growth. Analyses of rural wage trends show that over multiple years, nominal rural wages have grown modestly, but real wages have been flat to negative for long stretches. When food prices were rising sharply, as in 2023-24, they were eating up the modest growth in nominal wages, causing real wages to remain stagnant.

This could be due to two factors. First, labour supply has expanded, including rising female labour force participation. This is as much due to rural distress and the need to augment household income. Second, India's growth in recent years has been less labour-intensive. Output rise was due to vigorous growth in capital spending, mostly by the public sector. The Budget must treat rural earnings as a core macro variable. The third concern is external: the rupee's relative weakness and the latent risk of imported inflation. The rupee has depreciated even as CPI inflation remains near zero. The immediate question is why the pass-through has been muted.

Part of the answer is that food deflation – a domestic phenomenon – has dominated the CPI story, and crude oil prices have been relatively steady. But muted pass-through today does not guarantee muted pass-through tomorrow. Farm prices can turn quickly; price pressures in metals and precious metals can seep into costs and inflation expectations. The Budget's macro assumptions should not be built around the expectation that 0-2% inflation is a "new normal".

Finally, there is nominal GDP growth. When inflation is exceptionally low, the gap between real and nominal GDP narrows sharply. This has immediate fiscal implications because tax collections track nominal, not real, aggregates. If nominal growth underperforms, revenue buoyancy disappoints, and expenditure pressures remain. In an environment of heightened welfare expectations, the fiscal deficit arithmetic becomes harder. And if deficits widen unexpectedly, they can become inflationary and currency-negative, reinforcing the risks policymakers hoped to avoid.

Towards an inclusive model

The Budget should hence be pragmatic and resilience-building. First, construct macro assumptions that anticipate normalisation. It is safer to assume inflation returns towards 4% with upside risk. Second, treat rural earnings and employment-rich growth as central objectives. The Budget should emphasise interventions that raise earning capacity – rural infrastructure, irrigation and storage, value-chain development, rural non-farm clusters, and MSME credit ecosystems – rather than treating rural stress as a welfare-only issue. Third, public capex is still needed, but it should tilt towards job creation; for instance, focusing on housing, logistics, urban public services, and decentralised energy.

Fourth, recognise that currency stability is partly a fiscal credibility function. Fifth, be precise in public communication. Low inflation is not the same as low cost of living – a point often missed in political debates. If citizens feel their lived costs remain high and wages remain weak, they will distrust macro narratives, however technically correct the indices may be.

India's current combination of strong real growth and very low measured inflation is unusual – and in parts, welcome. But it rests heavily on food price dynamics and favourable base effects, while the labour market – especially rural wages – continues to show strain. The rupee and commodity prices add external uncertainty, and low nominal GDP growth can complicate fiscal arithmetic.

The Finance Minister's challenge, therefore, is not to celebrate or to fear the moment, but to interpret it correctly. It is an opportunity to strengthen the conditions that make growth inclusive and durable – rising wages, broad-based consumption, steady investment, and credible fiscal assumptions, before the inflation cycle turns again.

(The writer is an economist; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Mum's the last word

Had it not been for her ears, Mother's grin would have gone right around her head

JAYA KALYANARAMAN

At six-thirty that morning, the metal gate shut with a clang, and we knew she was back. I watched from the window while she literally flew through that fifty-metre stretch from the gate to the front door. I sensed resignation in Dad's voice as he opened the door and said in Tamil, "This one has also flown the nest!" Mum's demeanour was one of triumph! Did she feel a sense of fulfilment in her youngest child's achievement?

Fifty-six years ago, in 1970, the youngest of us siblings was hell-bent on joining the Air Force Medical College (AFMC). Having just finished her Class 11 boards, Mum enticed her into applying to CMC, Vellore, saying it would help her with her entrance exam to AFMC. In May that year, she cleared the written exam and was called to attend a three-day interview. Assuring her that the interview, too, would be a trial run for AFMC, they made that journey to Vellore. This story, incidentally, is not about our sister. It is about our mother, who almost always had it her way.

The rules were clear that during the three days, mother and daughter could not meet. Mum checked into the YWCA where she befriended a Bengali-speaking lady, who, like herself, had accompanied her son to the interview. How these two women communicated, God alone knows, but they were together through all their waking hours.

As per prior instructions, on the evening of the third day, the parents were to assemble at the open grounds where the results were being announced. The candidates were at the venue with their bag and baggage. If they didn't make it, they had to leave the premises while the successful candidates stayed on. Our sister was among the successful candidates. She was given five minutes to meet with our mother and take leave of her. Had it not been for her ears, Mother's grin of happiness and pride would have gone right around her head. They hugged and parted ways. Our sister had to immediately settle down at the medical college. There was no time to recall that this was to be a trial run to entering AFMC!

Clearing up our parental home, I found a couple of certificates that Mother had received from St John's Ambulance for proficiency in First Aid and a letter from CMC congratulating her on passing the entrance exam to the BSc Nursing Course and inviting her to an interview. That interview didn't happen. She was married off. I didn't think of it then, but Mum perhaps lived vicariously through our sister's achievement!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Politics over protocol: TN governor does it again

The Governor of Tamil Nadu, R N Ravi, has once again attempted to create chaos in the Assembly by insisting on playing the National Anthem first, contrary to the tradition of the Tamil Nadu Assembly, and walked out without even reading the report. This is not a new tactic; he wants to play politics, and when it doesn't work, he walks out, which is highly condemnable and unbecoming of his chair. His entire tenure in Tamil Nadu has been uncooperative and is against the will of the government, functioning like an opposition party leader. The government and the Governor must complement each other for the smooth functioning of any government.
S Sundara Pandian, Bengaluru

Fix electoral rolls

The Supreme Court has rightly directed the Election Commission to publish a list of persons falling under "logical discrepancies" and display them in gram panchayat, block and ward offices for verification. The reasons, such as differences in age between applicants and parents being too narrow, and minor discrepancies like spelling mistakes, are laughable. The EC must shun its ostrich-like attitude and cavalier manner in dealing with a matter of national importance impacting democracy.
S V Venkatakrishnan, Bengaluru

Strike a balance

I refer to 'AI, copyright and the public domain' (Jan 19). AI is no longer a distant concept; it is shaping our present and defining future. However, this reality also raises concerns for creators whose work fuels these systems. Instead of resisting technological progress, society must focus on adaptation. A practical solution lies in updating copyright laws to ensure that creators receive fair compensation for the use of their work. AI is inevitable, but exploitation is not.
Prisha Rampuria, Bengaluru

Opposition is vital

The BJP's civic poll victories in Maharashtra reflect its strong urban appeal and organisational strength. However, the Opposition's continued fragmentation raises concerns about the weakening of democratic competition. A healthy democracy requires a credible opposition to ensure accountability and balanced governance.
Harshita Jain, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

In just one year, President Trump has reclaimed American sovereignty by boldly pursuing peace through strength. Because of his decisive leadership, our allies respect us, our adversaries fear us, and the American people are put first.

Marco Rubio, US Secretary of State

I got here through delusions.
Steven Magee

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

When justice listens and reforms

India and the US are refining their legal perspectives on habitual offenders through a more humane lens

BRIJESH KALAPPA

In 1992, 18-year-old Kimber Reynolds was killed in a robbery when assailants snatched her bag and shot her. A year later, Polly Klaas, 12, was abducted from her home and killed. Both incidents happened in California, in the United States; both were committed by recidivists who were in prison for serious crimes, but were out on parole. Kimber's father, Mike Reynolds, was naturally outraged that a criminal with a demonstrable propensity to prey on the population was allowed free. He began a campaign to stop such offenders who had been held guilty of committing crimes in their tracks. The 'Three Strikes Law' was thus born – a sentencing scheme intended to "keep murderers, rapists, and child molesters behind bars, where they belong".

The law, enacted in 1994, imposed a life sentence for almost any crime, without consideration for how minor the offence was, provided the defendant had two prior convictions for crimes defined as 'serious' or 'violent' by the California Penal Code. However, soon statistics of shocking convictions for minor offences began to show up. The California Department of Corrections figures showed that the law disproportionately affected minority populations across the state. More than 45% of inmates serving life sentences under the law were African-American. It became apparent that the 'Three Strikes' law was also applied disproportionately against mentally ill and physically disabled defendants.

An economic fallout was that California's State Auditor estimated that the law added over $19 billion to the state's prison budget. Worse, criminologists were in consensus that life sentences for non-violent repeat offenders did not have any impact whatsoever on improving public safety.

Eighteen years after the law came to be passed, in 2012, California voters enacted the Three Strikes Reform Act (Proposition 36) to address the harsh and unintended consequences of the sentencing law. Proposition 36 eliminated life sentences for non-serious, non-violent crimes and established a procedure for inmates sentenced to life in prison for minor third-strike crimes to petition the court for reduced sentences. Proposition 36 was essentially the first voter initiative since the Civil War to reduce the sentences of inmates currently behind bars.

Its impact? Over 1,000 prisoners were released in the first eight months. Of these, recidivism (tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend) rates dived to less than 2% – a number well below state and national averages. Proposition 36 had saved Californian taxpayers between $10 and $13 million, and if the reform were applied to all eligible inmates, about $1 billion could be saved over the next ten years.

A 1966 description of a habitual offender by the Supreme Court of India, in *Dhanji Ram*, said: "...the suspect may or may not have been convicted of any crime. Even apart from any conviction, there may be reasonable grounds for believing that he is a habitual offender." On the basis of such belief, police could initiate a slew of measures to curb a person's liberties. All three terms – recidivist, history-sheeter, and habitual offender – while not meaning the same, have been used interchangeably by members of the bar.

Cycle of prejudice

However, in recent times, the Supreme Court has expressed compassion for oppressed classes who are mindlessly added to the list of habitual offenders. In the 2024 *Amanatullah Khan* case, authored by the present CJI Surya Kant, it was held that there ought to be no mechanical entries for history-sheeters. On the issue of police treatment, the Court held: "It is alleged that the police diaries are maintained selectively of individuals belonging to *Vimukta Jatis* based solely on caste bias, in a somewhat similar manner as happened in colonial times. We must bear in mind that these preconceived notions often render them 'invisible victims' due to prevailing stereotypes associated with communities, which may often impede their right to live a life with self-respect."

A three-judge bench headed by then CJI Dhananjaya Chandrachud held in the *Sukanya Shanta* case while dealing with habitual offenders and treatment meted out to them while in jail – "Simply because they happen to hail from socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds along with those belonging to backward communities, SC and ST... but there are some studies available in the public domain that reveal a pattern of an unfair, prejudicial and atrocious mindset."

The two largest democracies of the world have been changing their perspective on recidivists by displaying a more humane face, thus paving the way for the reformation of those who may have displayed criminal tendencies on an occasion or two.

(The writer is an advocate at the Supreme Court of India and a former legal advisor to the Government of Karnataka)

Safety must become the first measure of urban governance

A RAVINDRA

The year 2026 began on a grim note for India's cities. New Year celebrations were followed by unprecedented air pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region. Soon after came the shocking death of 16 people due to water contamination in Indore, Madhya Pradesh—ironically ranked India's "cleanest city" for eight consecutive years. In Chinnappanahalli near Marathahalli in Bengaluru, a building under construction collapsed, killing a four-year-old girl and injuring three others. Police reports pointed to the absence of basic safety measures.

Such incidents are not aberrations. Pedestrians struggling to walk on broken footpaths or cross roads is an everyday sight. Road accidents, injuries, and fatalities occur with regularity. Safety has thus emerged as a defining issue – perhaps the single most important concern--in urban India.

Consider Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat, which invested Rs 257 crore for a "24/7 water supply" project. Despite this, its civil hospital recently reported 70 cases of typhoid in a paediatric ward due to sewer mixing with drinking water—an act of utter negligence. In Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur, children gasped for breath and turned blue because the hospital had not paid its oxygen supplier. In Surat, once a model for municipal services, young students were forced to jump from a burning building due to unchecked illegal construction, leading to multiple deaths. In Bengaluru, rampant building violations thrive on the connivance of municipal authorities.

This New Year calls for a renewed focus on five basic safety measures in the interest of citizens' welfare:

1. Clean and safe air: Air pollution has become an alarming threat to public health. Beyond its well-known impact on the lungs and heart, it is now established that air pollution affects the brain and cognitive processes. Children are particularly vulnerable, as developing brains are more susceptible to neurotoxic pollutants, impairing learning and emotional health.

2. Safe water: According to Niti Ayog, nearly two lakh people die every year due to lack of access to safe water, with about 70% of water sources contaminated. The World Health Organisation links unsafe water to diseases such as cholera, typhoid, hepatitis and polio. Many Indian schools still lack basic facilities like safe water and sanitation, seriously affecting children's health. The National Green Tribunal has described water contamination in Indore as a public health emergency, calling it a systemic failure. In truth, it is a national public health failure.

3. Road safety: In 2024, India recorded 4.73 lakh road accidents and 1.70 lakh deaths. Two-wheelers accounted for about 45% of fatalities, while pedestrians made up nearly 20%. City-wise data places Delhi at the top with 1,461 crash deaths, followed by Bengaluru with 772. Instead of enforcing traffic laws strictly, the Karnataka government has offered a 50% discount on unpaid traffic dues – effectively an amnesty that incentivises violations. Footpaths in most cities are unwalkable, while crossing roads is a hazardous exercise.

4. Safe waste management: Indian cities generate about 170,000 MTS of solid waste annually, including municipal waste, industrial hazardous waste, biomedical and electronic waste, as well as agricultural residue that is often burnt, especially around Delhi. Improper waste handling poses serious health and environmental risks. Epidemiological studies show that waste workers and communities living near dumping sites face high exposure to parasites and infections, leading to increased mortality. Added to this is the growing menace of stray dogs, now troubling municipalities.

5. Building safety: Recurrent collapses of buildings and bridges expose weak enforcement and poor maintenance. Between 2010 and 2014, over 13,000 people died in structural collapses, with residential buildings accounting for 40% of deaths. Recent incidents include collapses in Delhi's Mustafabad, Mumbai's Virar and a school roof in Rajasthan, all in 2025. The Morbi bridge collapse in 2022 killed 32 people, while the Kolkata bridge collapse in 2016 claimed 27 lives. Bengaluru still remembers the Gangaram building collapse in of 1983, which killed 123 people. The causes are well known: substandard materials, flawed foundation design and dilapidated buildings.

At the root of these failures lies a profound disregard for human life – among public authorities and, increasingly, among citizens themselves. Construction workers, slum dwellers and the urban poor bear the brunt. How else does one explain reckless driving, illegal constructions and the casual violations of safety norms that endanger neighbours and passers-by?

There is much to learn from China. Over a decade, Beijing halved its PM2.5 levels, while India's average barely moved. Globally, nine of the 10 cities with the steepest PM2.5 declines between 2013 and 2022 were in China. The Chinese government acted decisively by shutting polluting factories, shifting to cleaner energy, restricting vehicle use and promoting public transport.

In India, the reluctance to regulate the explosive growth of private vehicles has worsened congestion, parking problems, and public health outcomes. Cities increasingly seem designed for cars rather than people, with little regard for safety.

There is also limited public awareness about risks such as indoor pollution from cooking fuels, asbestos, poor ventilation and dust. Informal food vendors often operate near open drains, while food safety norms are routinely ignored despite a rigorous Food Safety and Standards Act.

Safety is not an optional extra. It is fundamental to good governance. It instils confidence in people, including investors, and boosts productivity.

(The writer is a former chief secretary, Government of Karnataka)

Amid political failure, unelected institutions hold the line for India's constitutional order

K N HARI KUMAR

Part 3

PTI

The expanding role of judges and bureaucrats has upheld continuity and rule-based governance, even as it raises concerns about legitimacy, consent, and democratic depth

Initially, in the early years after Independence, the judiciary was not entirely on board with the nationalist project. In a series of judgments, it placed itself on the wrong side of the social justice agenda by striking down legislation on a key issue – land reforms – forcing the government to amend the Constitution to keep it outside the purview of judicial review. Later, however, by ruling that the basic structure of the Constitution could not be changed, the judiciary asserted both its independence and its role as the guardian of the Constitution. Even though it surrendered during the Emergency, the judiciary assumed a social activist role in its aftermath. By taking up a proliferation of Public Interest Litigations (PILs), it cast itself as the defender of the last resort of the common man, civil rights and freedoms, governance generally and the Constitution. At times, it intervened in public issues *suo motu*. This significantly enhanced its credibility and respect among the public. As corrupt and criminal politicians failed in their governing duties and lost legitimacy among the public, the prestige and authority of the courts grew. When, for whatever reason, the bureaucrats could not get things done through politicians, courts were ready to take on those tasks. When civil society activists faced an issue or a crisis, they appealed to the courts, which were seen as independent, impartial and fair.

Over time, as failures of the politicians in governance became more pronounced, the judiciary assumed a direct role in day-to-day administration. It increasingly moved beyond the confines of traditional judicial considerations such as the mandates of laws passed by legislatures, legal precedent, Constitutional provisions, or even refraining from the content of policymaking and administrative implementation and restricting itself only to the form and procedure. It has, after listening to advocates for citizens and experts, issued administrative directives and decisions on the broadest possible range of public policy and administrative issues. It has directed governments and legislatures to pass specific legislation on issues that it deemed necessary. It has even tried to restrict what political parties could include in their manifestos, particularly with regard to "freebies". It widened the interpretation of the Constitution to include new rights and powers. Judicial pronouncements have taken on an almost *ex cathedra* authority. Backed by the enormous increase in the respect in which it is held and the power of contempt of court, it has thundered, threatened, ridiculed and enforced its orders. To date, it has been able to influence and rein in the BJP-NDA governments in the Centre and the states on many issues, though not all. Even if, on occasion, like in punitive demolitions of constructions belonging to Muslims, they have ignored its directives.

In addition to their in-service roles, retired senior officials and judges have been appointed to key posts in Constitutional, policy-making and regulatory institutions and agencies – the Election Commission, NITI Aayog, the Reserve Bank of India, national security bodies, RTI, CAG, commissions of inquiry, and senior diplomatic posts. With this, the bureaucracy-judiciary complex can be said to be in control of all the commanding heights of the polity. In this position, they have become the guardians and executors of the nationalist agenda and ideology, similar to the role that the military played in post-Atatürk Turkey until recently.

This arrangement has both positive and negative aspects. Most importantly, for the common man, it provides a modicum of governance where much else has failed. On the positive side, it can be said to represent a degree of progress towards rule-based governance—what the sociologist Max Weber called rational-legal authority—upheld by the bureaucracy in a broader sense, and which for him was the most efficient and highest form of government. On the negative side, it could become what is often described in the United States as the "deep state": rule by unelected judges, officials, and others who make decisions in closed chambers, through opaque processes, away from public scrutiny and accountability, thereby robbing citizens of their rights, including the right to govern themselves.

Stability without participation and the democratic risk

Despite the benefits of rule by administrative-judicial *diktat*, especially in the Indian context, it has some serious drawbacks. It tends to reduce citizens in civil society to mere petitioners rather than active participants in political decision-making, which is what democracy promises. Given the structure of the courts, it is almost impossible for individuals and organisations to argue against them in public and change their decisions in policy matters. Indeed, in recent years, courts have been limiting the physical spaces where the public can protest and also telling protesters what they cannot protest about and even telling them what issues they should take up to protest. Besides, rule by courts comes close to eliminating the distinction between the executive and the judiciary; the appeal from the court's orders is only to the courts! It may seem far-fetched, but the risk that governance through the bureaucracy-judiciary could easily slip into a civilian dictatorship should not be ignored. In other words, there is a possibility that under certain conditions it could lead to another Emergency in a different guise. A related risk is that the bureaucracy and judiciary can be used by the ruling political party to impose its authoritarian rule in certain situations. Additionally, due to their background, training, orientation and institutional and societal position, bureaucrats and judges are not best suited for mobilising popular consent for their administration. Hence, it could also have detrimental effects on the legitimacy of that rule.

That there is nothing inherently in the nature of the bureaucracy or judiciary that predisposes them towards a particular ideology or agenda becomes clear when we look at their role in the second Trump administration over the past year. The US bureaucracy, especially at the top, has always been subject to political changes and partisan considerations. There is no strong, unified cadre and structure like in India, which was probably inherited from the British Imperial State. However, such hope as there was, among liberals at least, in restraining Trump centred on the Supreme Court, which has had a powerful independent and, in recent decades, activist role. But developments there over the past year have shown that there is little reason to assume, as we in India have in recent decades been wont to do, that the judiciary, particularly, is intrinsically a bulwark defending liberal Constitutional democracy and against authoritarian, dictatorial rule. Rather, the Supreme Court there has been an enabler of President Trump's whimsical, arbitrary, illegal, corrupt, self-aggrandising, vengeful, militaristic, murderous (extra-legal killing in international waters), white, Christian racist/nationalist, nakedly imperialist and resource-grabbing, dictatorial and unconstitutional actions. It has, in an overwhelming majority of cases, stayed the restraining orders of the lower courts, often through cryptic emergency rulings, without giving any reasons and without even examining the Trump administration's pleas that its actions have been necessitated by emergencies. This seems to bear out the argument of some American commentators that the guardrails against arbitrary, illegal and unconstitutional actions by would-be dictators are weak. When seen against this backdrop, the Indian nationalist ideology and agenda underpinning decisions and actions of the bureaucracy-judiciary complex stand out more clearly.

Compared with Trump's radical, all-encompassing disruption or even Erdogan's milder Islamic authoritarianism, Modi certainly seems moderate, preserving continuity and stability. Working within the system, using his remarkable oratorical and performative skills and keen political antenna, and backed by the organisational and legacy strength of the BJP-RSS, Modi has vastly extended the reach of the BJP-RSS's popularity and influence, even to those who are not fully aware of and/or do not accept their fundamental nature and ultimate agenda. He has brought them further into the mainstream of Indian polity and society, from which the popular reaction to the assassination of the Mahatma had excluded them. This process had begun decades earlier with the JP Movement of the early 1970s and was furthered during the Emergency and the Janata government. He has been able to insert some of their senior personnel into key areas of power and influence in society from the highest levels downwards. Overall, this has vastly increased the legitimacy of the BJP-RSS in Indian society.

But as he pursues some of the more extreme aspects of the Sangh Parivar's Hindutva agenda, he is straining against the constraints that the constitutional institutions, public opinion and Opposition parties have placed in his way. Arguably, he is more respectful of national icons and democratic norms and institutions because he recognises that the BJP-RSS still lacks the popular legitimacy enjoyed by the freedom fighters and the institutions they established. And that may explain why he is not able to push his Hindutva agenda as vigorously as he might want and challenge the hegemony of the nationalist democratic, secular ideology. He has personally desisted and tried to restrain his party men from any contentious or controversial issues that may divert or derail his agenda and strategy, which may be to bring about change from the inside. When Modi seeks to go beyond the nationalist consensus, there is pushback from Opposition parties, farmers, civil society, religious and linguistic minorities, and the general public. From the point of view of the bureaucracy-judiciary complex, Modi is able to mobilise mass support for their agenda and actions in return for acquiescence in promoting the Hindutva agenda to some extent. In broader policy terms, he has tilted more towards the interests of the upper classes and castes in the urban and rural areas, the urban sector, and the Hindu majority, who collectively remain his and the BJP-RSS' strongest supporters, and away from the OBCs, SC/STs, the urban and rural poorer workers, the rural sector, and the religious minorities.

So far, so good. The strengths of Indian democracy far outweigh its serious weaknesses. Unlike in the US, in India the guardrails of constitutional democracy have kept the disruptive forces within limits and even, to some extent, mainstreamed them. For the most part, the post-Independence societal consensus has held; there has been no radical rupture or transformation. The reason for this is not merely the heritage but also the implementation of the nation's agenda – economic growth with social justice, land reforms, reservations for the OBCs and SC/STs, upward mobility through education, an independent foreign and defence policy, constitutional democracy including all its citizens, an independent judiciary and a strong civil service, and a welfare state. None of these is without serious inadequacies, and some are more successful than others, but together they contribute positively to the stability and legitimacy of the state.

It is against this background that senior BJP leader Subramanian Swamy's opinion that "adopting a new [Hindu Rashtra] Constitution is not possible unless there is a revolution" should be seen. Because such a constitution represents a fundamental and radical change in the idea of the Indian nation, as it has developed from Raja Ram Mohan Roy to Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru, which underpins Indian constitutional democracy, it requires nothing less than an upheaval that overturns the social order to bring it about. That is also why the BJP's majority in Parliament and in many states is inadequate to transform India into a Hindu Rashtra. In Swamy's concluding statement, "That document was discarded for now," there is the implication that it could be brought back at a more opportune time.

That Modi and the BJP-RSS have made only limited progress towards their ultimate goal despite three successive wins in the parliamentary elections and many in the states gives some reason for hope. But it would be foolish to write off a 100-year-old organisation that has risen to power and remained there over an extended period, has a mass leader capable of winning elections repeatedly, has a vast cadre and mass support, and has tentacles deep in the nooks and corners of Hindu society.

For those who want to defend and extend our Constitutional democracy, the task is not merely to defend the heritage but to deepen democracy and ensure that it works for all the citizens, not just for a tiny elite. They should not merely focus on strengthening the traditions that have ensured a stable democracy but need to address the weaknesses too. Most importantly, they have to expand the role of citizens to participate actively and autonomously in decisions and laws. But for that politics has to be taken back from the politicians first. That is a big ask.

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 1976

Vatehole Project foundation laid

Hassan, Jan 20
Chief Minister Devaraj Urs laid the foundation of the Rs. 4.8-crore Vatehole Project here this evening. He said the project would bring prosperity to the Malnad areas of Alur and Belur taluks. Initially, the project would irrigate about 18,500 acres. On completion it would irrigate a total of 25,000 acres. Mr. Devaraj Urs said this was the second major project in the district. He hoped the project would be completed early.

25 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 2001

Bush sworn in as 43rd US President

Washington, Jan 20 (PTI & Reuters)
Mr George W Bush today became the 43rd President of the United States assuming world's most powerful office at a grand ceremony on the lawns of White House after he was sworn in along with his running mate Mr Dick Cheney as Vice- President. Fifty-four-year-old Mr Bush, a former Governor of Texas, will be only the second person in American history to occupy the White House once held by his father. Mr Bush senior had demitted office in 1993.

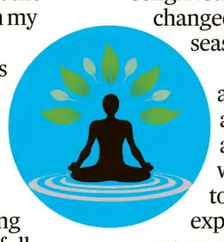
OASIS | ADITI PANT

Spring follows winter

The road of life is not paved with sunlight alone, nor is it an endless winter of shadow. It is a gentle meandering of both happiness and sadness mingling like seasons that know how to follow one another without asking for permission.

The closing weeks of the year were an emotional roller coaster for me and my family. After a long wait, we finally received some good news, but along with it came complex logistical changes that we had not considered earlier. Those sharp vicissitudes chafed our hearts and minds until another positive outcome brought the pendulum to a pause, albeit for a short while, before it swung again on its relentless path.

In this tumultuous time, at the heart of winter, I saw trees in my backyard stand bare except for the birds' nests. The nests clung to branches against the cold winds. No leaves remained to shelter them, no flowers distracted from their stark presence. And yet, they endured, underlining the fact that something carefully built still holds its place despite the harshest days.



I know in spring, the same nests that now stand alone will be cradled by green, surrounded by colour and song. Nothing about the nest will have changed; what will change is the season around it.

There is a lesson for us here, as the seasons of the heart and mind continue to change as well. You will find times when sadness strips life down to its bare branches, leaving us exposed and unsure. But those moments do not erase what we have built within ourselves. They simply test it. And when happiness returns, as it always does, it does not arrive to replace sorrow, but to sit beside it, to soften its edges, to remind us that contrast is what gives life its acme and depth.

Just as the new year dawned upon us, my family and I, once again, realised that what happens outside of us will continue to change, but what is on the inside; hope, love and family will help us stand resilient like the nest through winter. When sadness comes, it will be met without despair and when happiness comes, it will be cherished without fear of its passing.

After all, one teaches us how to endure; the other reminds us why we endure at all.

‘Contempt of court’: SC flays Maneka Gandhi for criticising stray dog order

Says not acting against her is out of its ‘magnanimity’

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday came down heavily on former Union minister and animal rights activist, Maneka Gandhi, for her remarks criticising apex court orders in the stray dog issue.

The court orally said that she had “committed contempt of court,” but it was court’s “magnanimity” that it did not take contempt action against her.

Taking up a suo motu case related to stray dogs, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria took strong exception to Gandhi’s statements during a podcast.

The court asked Senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, appearing for Gandhi, “You were telling the court we should be circumspect, but what kind of statements she was making?”

Maneka Gandhi

“Your client has committed contempt. We are not taking cognisance of that. That is our magnanimity. Have you heard her podcast? What is her body language? What she says and how she says,” the bench said.

It also said that as the former minister, she has made “all kinds of comments” against everyone without even thinking.

During the hearing at one point, Ramachandran said, he had appeared for 26/11 terrorist Ajmal Kasab. Hearing this, Justice Nath replied, “Kasab had not committed contempt, but your client has.”

The submissions of individuals and NGOs concluded on Tuesday. The court fixed the matter for further hearing on January 28.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for one of the petitioners, said sterilisation reduces the aggression of stray dogs, but no effective sterilisation is being implemented in most cities. He argued that the court’s observations can sometimes lead to unfortunate consequences. “For example, the said feeders should be made responsible for dog bites. Perhaps it was sarcastic,” he added.

The bench, however, replied, “No, we didn’t make it sarcastically. We said it very seriously.”

Advocate Harsh Jaidka, for another petitioner, complained about the high number of stray dogs in his area. “I have started having a sleep disorder. Kids can’t study. Authorities did not initiate any action. They said we can only do vaccination and sterilisation. NHRC has also not taken any action. In case of nuisance, stray dogs can be removed,” he submitted.

Another lawyer contended that there should be a helpline in every city.

Don’t shut down newspaper, top court orders Punjab govt

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday made it clear to the Punjab government that the printing of the newspaper ‘Punjab Kesari’ has to be ensured uninterruptedly after the AAP government initiated a barrage of regulatory measures against the publication.

The state actions were triggered, apparently, after a news article alleged that luxurious facilities were provided to party convenor Arvind Kejriwal from the state exchequer.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi issued the direction to the state government, giving interim protection to the newspaper, as senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi mentioned the “extraordinary” matter on behalf of the newspaper, seeking immediate and urgent intervention.

“The printing presses of the vernacular daily shall continue to function uninterruptedly notwithstanding the Punjab State Pollution Control Board’s decision to snap power supply due to alleged violations,” the bench added.

Rohatgi said that, as the newspaper published articles unfavourable to the dispensation in Punjab, several coercive actions were initiated, including cutting off electricity, notices by the State Pollution Control Board against the press, shutting down hotels run by the newspaper owners, and lodging FIRs.

Sabarimala gold theft: ED conducts raids across 3 states

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches at multiple locations in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in connection with the alleged gold theft at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple.

The operation, code-named ‘Golden Shadow’, was carried out simultaneously at the residences and offices of the accused. ED officials searched 21 locations across the three states, with raids beginning around 7.30 am and continuing late into the evening at several places.

In Kerala, searches were conducted at the headquarters of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), which manages the temple, and at the residences of key accused, including Bengaluru-based Malayali Unnikrishnan Potti, senior Devaswom Board official Murari Babu, and former TDB presidents A Padmakumar, also a CPM leader and former MLA, and N Vasu.

In Karnataka, the ED reportedly searched Potti’s residence as well as the residence and jewellery shop of Govardhan, who runs Roddam Jewels in Ballari.

In Tamil Nadu, searches were conducted at three places, including Chennai-based Smart Creations, where the gold extraction and plating were allegedly carried out.

The ED has not yet disclosed the findings of the searches. The agency registered an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) last week, naming all the accused in the case.

Even though Kandararu Rajeevaru, one of the tantris (traditional chief priests) of the Sabarimala temple who was arrested earlier by the Special Investigation Team (SIT), has also been named as an accused by the ED, there were no reports of searches at his residence.

Kerala Devaswom Minister V N Vasavan said the ED’s actions should be viewed with suspicion, alleging discrimination in the agency’s approach.

‘Focus on studies and career’: Court’s advice to TISS students facing criminal case

MUMBAI, PTI: Focus on career rather than getting embroiled in controversies, a court has advised students of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) who are facing a criminal case for allegedly attending an event marking the death anniversary of former Delhi University professor G N Saibaba.

Hearing their applications for pre-arrest bail, the sessions court on Monday extended the interim protection from arrest granted to them.

Trombay police in the city registered a case against nine TISS students in October 2025 for allegedly commemorating the death anniversary of G N Saibaba who had been acquitted in March 2024 in an alleged Maoist links case.

They were also accused of shouting slogans in support of former JNU students Sharjeel Imam and Umar Khalid who are currently behind bars in the Delhi riots case.

Charges under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections related to causing prejudice to the nation, causing enmity between various groups and unlawful assembly, among others, were pressed against the students.

During the hearing, additional sessions judge Manoj B Oza addressed the students, saying they should focus on their studies and career.

The court extended their interim protection from arrest till the next hearing on February 5.

Saibaba, who suffered from more than 90% disability and was wheelchair-bound, was incarcerated for a decade for alleged links with the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) before being acquitted by the Bombay High Court. He died on in 2024.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

WE'VE GOT TVS WITH 4K ULTRA HD, WEB BROWSERS OR BUILT-IN VIDEO GAMES
THERE'S NOTHING THEY CAN'T DO!
DO YOU HAVE ANY JUST PLAIN TVS?
WOW, I DON'T KNOW...NOBODY EVER ASKS ME THAT ANYMORE
10-13

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

ALL RACCOONS HAVE MASKS ON THEIR FACES. HOW WILL WE KNOW WHICH ONES ARE THE BAD GUYS?
YEAH!
THEY'LL BE THE ONES WHO STINK WORSE THAN CATS
OHH...

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

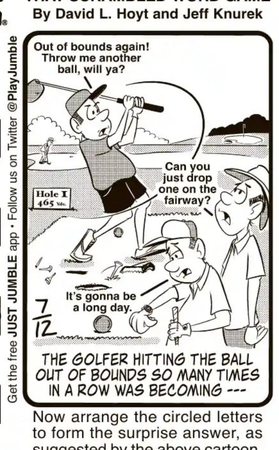
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LEDLW

PUOYS

LTIFLE

ENJTUK


Out of bounds again! Throw me another ball, will ya?
Can you just drop one on the fairway?
Hole 1 465 yds.
It's gonna be a long day.
7/12
THE GOLFER HITTING THE BALL OUT OF BOUNDS SO MANY TIMES IN A ROW WAS BECOMING ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answer here: “ ○○○ - ○○○○○ ” (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday’s Jumbles: GLAZE STOOD FINITE CATNIP
Answer: The fencer lost to his rival once more after being — FOILED AGAIN

◆SU-DO-KU-6809◆

5			7			9		
		8					1	
		9		8	6			
3					1	8		4
1		4	9					7
			3	7		5		
	2					6		
		7			5			1

medium

SOLUTION TO 6808

5	8	9	6	1	3	7	2	4
7	2	1	9	4	8	5	6	3
4	3	6	7	5	2	8	9	1
1	5	2	3	7	6	4	8	9
6	4	8	1	2	9	3	5	7
3	9	7	4	8	5	6	1	2
9	1	4	8	6	7	2	3	5
8	7	5	2	3	1	9	4	6
2	6	3	5	9	4	1	7	8

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

HITORI-3263

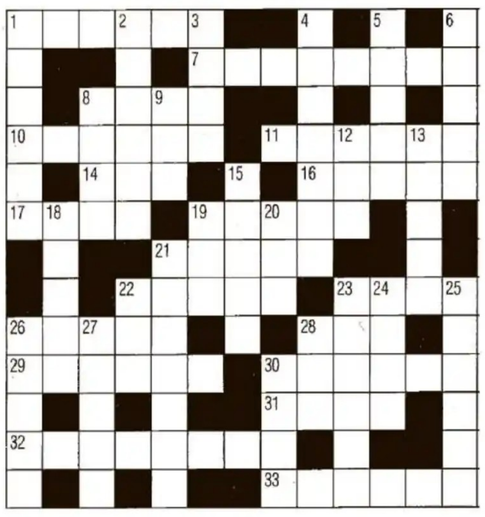
8	7	8	5	8	8	6	1
8	5	4	6	2	1	4	3
3	8	1	8	4	4	2	7
1	8	5	8	5	7	4	4
8	2	4	4	1	5	8	8
7	4	2	1	3	8	5	8
6	8	7	4	5	4	3	8
8	1	8	3	3	2	7	5

SOLUTION TO 3262

8	3	5	■	7	2	4	6
7	■	6	2	4	■	1	3
■	1	■	3	5	4	■	8
6	2	4	5	■	3	7	■
2	4	■	8	3	5	6	1
5	■	2	■	1	■	3	■
1	6	3	7	■	8	5	2
■	7	■	1	6	■	2	4

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12336



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Trouble getting a piece of sculpture erected (4,2)
7 A middling meal for one, possibly (8)
8 That of a square apartment? (4)
10 The cat has only one short month to be festive (6)
11 Where to shop in wet weather (6)
14 Over five missing (3)
16 In different ways a girl is moony (5)
17 When made to go, set out for central Greenwich (4)
19 Regal beverage? (5)
21 Picture one in a mount (5)
22 Taken in, perhaps predatorily (5)
23 In short, a Simpsonian title? (4)
26 Centre of the arterial system (5)
28 It’s usually kept in Delaware (3)
29 Being great, perhaps, he had two names (6)
30 Like a lawn improved by the new owners (6)
31 Indigo, it seems, comes from a duck (4)
32 It’s of poignant interest, perhaps, so don’t miss it! (3,5)
33 Routine arrangement of benefit to bookies? (6)

DOWN
1 Lib. MPs possibly calling for inflation (6)
2 Mark changes gear in a race (6)
3 Perform a song at the piano (4)
4 Red as clarets maybe (7)
5 Started, for instance, during Prohibition (5)
6 Going to ground in the Tube is not enough (5)
8 Nora turns up with Presley’s middle name (4)
9 An organ at each end of the choir (3)
12 To call it a pet would be inaccurate (3)
13 Possibly a dark spot on the map of Africa (5)
15 Punished for a drunken dance (5)
18 The girl he let loose (5)
19 Plenty of cello tone (3)
20 Information on the two ways to get to Gateshead? (3)
21 Sailor who made a fortune for ship’s officer? (7)
22 Give a redhead a half of beer and do wrong (3)
23 They’re of fundamental concern (6)
24 Like a missing GI seeing nothing in lawbreaking? (4)
25 Random rhyme for ‘bike’ (6)
26 Quick to change hats at the close of play (5)
27 Being behind, a terrible fear about finishing last (5)
28 Calendar boy? (3)
30 Rodents’ star turn (4)

ACROSS
1 Recollect (6)
7 Ultimate (8)
8 Criticises sharply (4)
10 Roof tiles (6)
11 Happening not long ago (6)
14 Agent (3)
16 Cowboy display (5)
17 Cast off (4)
19 Sensational (5)
21 Lawful (5)
22 Quick (5)
23 Ridge of coral (4)
26 Pick-me-up (5)
28 Of great importance (3)
29 Fridge compartment (6)
30 Bird (6)
31 Among (4)
32 Direct (8)
33 Vocalist (6)

DOWN
1 Wakens (6)
2 Subsided (6)
3 Minus (4)
4 Receive by succession (7)
5 Healed (5)
6 Planet (5)
8 Uncommon (4)
9 High spirits, vitality (3)
12 Fish (3)
13 Courage (5)
15 Readily understood (5)
18 Confusion (5)
19 Impudent talk (3)
20 To free (3)
21 Terse (7)
22 Chest bone (3)
23 Area (6)
24 Looked at carefully (4)
25 Hand digit (6)
26 Slightly drunk (5)
27 Approaches (5)
28 Boy or girl’s name (3)
30 Hits lightly (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12335

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, A-miss 6, Truck 9, C-hole-ra 10, Array 11, Arde-n 12, Pixie 13, P-ostm-an 15, G-’em 17, Only 18, Fedora 19, Under 20, Ur-gent 22, Most 24, Pa’s 25, Penalty 26, S-cold 27, Ditto 28, Fifty 29, Artisan 30, Lea-RN 31, Ra-I-se.
DOWN: 2, Mo-rm-on 3, Scanty 4, Shy 5, Plain 6, Trainer 7, Rare 8, CL-Eve-R 12, Paint 13, Pop up 14, Slugs 15, Go-go-L 16, Ma-Rt.-y 18, Fe-T-ed 19, Unicorn 21, Racine 22, Marina 23, States 25, P-Laid 26, Star 28, Far.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Leash 6, Hangs 9, Tearful 10, Cigar 11, Radar 12, Costs 13, Forever 15, Pie 17, Arid 18, Bullet 19, Beryl 20, Arises 22, Ease 24, Lad 25, Launder 26, Chair 27, Hanoi 28, Amber 29, Average 30, Belle 31, Elite.
DOWN: 2, Editor 3, Stayed 4, Her 5, Error 6, Hurtful 7, Alas 8, Goalie 12, Cedes 13, Fatal 14, Rigid 15, Plead 16, Ether 18, By far 19, Beehive 21, Ravage 22, Enamel 23, Select 25, Liars 26, Coal 28, Age.

SCRABBLE™

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R1	S1	W4	L1	C3	A1	S1	2nd Letter Double	RACK 1
R1	T1	A1	A1	E1	S1	L1		RACK 2
Y4	D2	E1	E1	L1	L1	M3		RACK 3
A1	E1	E1	Y4	K5	W4	D2	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 155-165
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

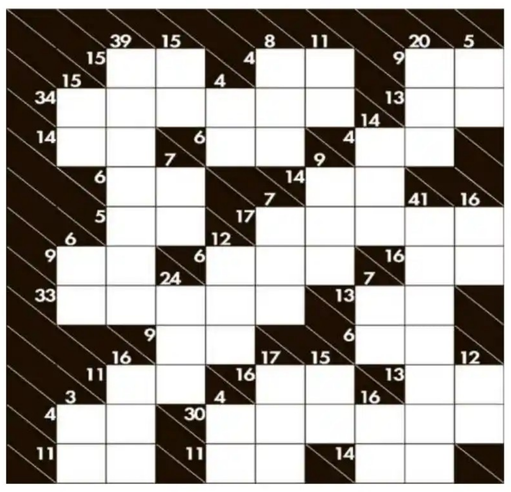
DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. “Blanks” used as any letter have no point value. All Judd’s words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD’S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION

P3	U1	L1	L1	E1	Y4		RACK 1	= 22
M3	E1	A1	S1	U1	R1	E1	RACK 2	= 59
F4	E1	S1	T1	E1	R1		RACK 3	= 27
G2	R1	A1	D2	A1	T1	E1	RACK 4	= 59

PAR SCORE 110-120 JUDD’S TOTAL 167

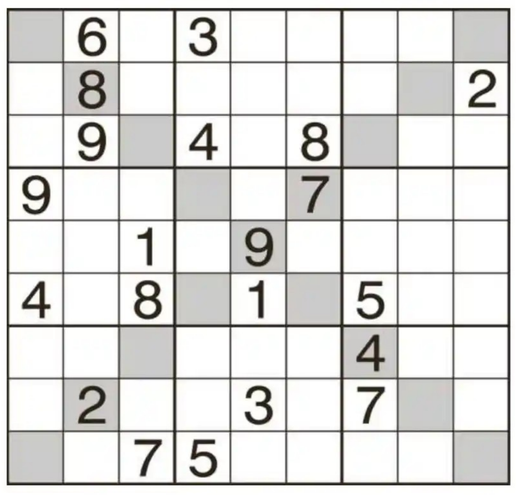
KAKURO- 3263



SOLUTION TO 3262

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3803



SOLUTION TO 3802

8	7	3	2	5	6	9	1	4
1	9	6	8	4	3	7	2	5
4	2	5	1	9	7	8	6	3
3	5	2	4	1	9	6	8	7
9	1	7	3	6	8	4	5	2
6	4	8	5	7	2	1	3	9
5	6	1	7	2	4	3	9	8
2	3	4	9	8	1	5	7	6
7	8	9	6	3	5	2	4	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Territorial issue: Macron calls tariff threat against EU nations 'unacceptable'

No going back on Greenland: Trump

EU Commission chief pushes for new, 'independent' Europe

DAVOS (SWITZERLAND)/ COPENHAGEN, REUTERS

US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday there was "no going back" on his goal of controlling Greenland, refusing to rule out taking the Arctic island by force and rounding on allies as European leaders struggled to respond.

Trump's ambition — spelled out in social media posts and mock-up AI images — to wrest sovereignty over Greenland from fellow Nato member Denmark has threatened to blow apart an alliance that has underpinned Western security for decades. It has also threatened to reignite a trade war with Europe that rattled markets and companies for months last year, though Trump's Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent pushed back against what he called "hysteria" over Greenland.

"As I expressed to everyone, very plainly, Greenland is imperative for national and world security. There can be no going back — on that, everyone agrees!" Trump said after speaking to Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte.

To drive home the message, Trump posted an AI-generated image of himself in Greenland holding a US flag. Another showed him speaking to leaders next to a map depicting Canada and Greenland as part of the US. Separately, he leaked messages, including one from French President Emmanuel Macron, who questioned what Trump was "doing on Greenland". Trump, who has vowed to impose tariffs on countries that stand in his way, had earlier threatened to hammer French wines and champagnes with a 200% tariff.

French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech during the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, on Tuesday. AFP

URSULA VON DER LEYEN
European Commission chief

"EU's response will be unflinching, united and proportional.

The EU has threatened to hit back with trade measures. One option is a package of tariffs on $109 billion of US imports that could automatically kick in on February 6.

Another option is the "Anti-Coercion Instrument", which has never been used. It could limit access to public tenders, investments or banking activity, or restrict trade in services — a sector in which the US has a surplus with the bloc — including the lucrative digital services provided by US tech giants.

Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen told parliament in Copenhagen on Tuesday that "the worst may still lie ahead". "We can negotiate about everything political, including security, investments and the economy, but we cannot negotiate our most fundamental values: sovereignty, our country's identity, our borders, our democracy," she said.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, speaking at the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland sought to rally leaders around building a "new independent Europe".

"The seismic change we are going through today is an opportunity, in fact a necessity, to build a new form of European independence," she said.

Instead, he said, Europe would continue to stand up for territorial sovereignty and the rule of law, despite what he described as a shift towards a world without rules. That could include the European Union responding with its own steep trade sanctions.

"We do prefer respect to bullies," Macron said. "And we do prefer the rule of law to brutality." He delivered the speech after Trump threatened huge tariffs against French wine and champagne and published private messages from Macron — an unusual breach of diplomatic discretion. Macron confirmed he had no plans to extend his stay in Davos to Wednesday, when Trump is due to arrive in the Swiss resort.

We don't give in to bullies: Macron

DAVOS, REUTERS

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday that Europe would not give in to bullies or be intimidated, in a scathing criticism of US President Donald Trump's threat to impose steep tariffs if Europe does not let him take over Greenland.

While other European leaders have sought to strike a measured tone to prevent the transatlantic dispute from escalating, Macron came out swinging. France, and Europe, will not "passively accept the law of the strongest," Macron said at the World Economic Forum in Davos, warning that doing otherwise would lead to Europe's "vassalisation".

Canada military models response to US invasion: Report

TORONTO, AFP: The Canadian military has developed a model response to a US invasion, the Globe and Mail reported on Tuesday, as President Donald Trump again muses online about a takeover of Canada.

Citing two unnamed senior government officials, the paper said the Canadian response model centres on insurgency-style tactics, like those used in Afghanistan by fighters who resisted Soviet and later US forces. Trump's annexation talk has eased in recent months, but overnight, he posted an image on his social media platform of a map showing Canada and Venezuela covered in the US flag, implying a full American takeover of both countries.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Kurdish civilians gather with weapons after the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces appealed to young Kurds to join resistance against the Syrian army in the city of Qamishli on Tuesday. AFP

120 Islamic State cadres escape from Syrian prison amid clashes

▸ Syria's Ministry of Interior said on Tuesday that 120 Islamic State members escaped from a prison in northeast Syria a day earlier, amid clashes between government forces and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, which guard the prison, AP/PTI reports from Raqqa (Syria).

Security forces recaptured 81 of the escapees, "while intensive security efforts continue to pursue the remaining fugitives and take the necessary legal measures against them," the statement said. The SDF and the government have traded blame over the escape at a prison in the town of Shaddadeh, amid the breakdown of a ceasefire deal between the two sides. Also on Tuesday, the SDF accused "Damascus-affiliated factions" of cutting off water supplies to the al-Aqtan prison near the city of Raqqa, which it called a "blatant violation of humanitarian standards".

Pak extends airspace ban for India

▸ Pakistan on Tuesday extended its airspace ban for Indian aircraft by another month until February 24, PTI reports from Islamabad.

Pakistan closed its airspace to India's airlines in April last year after the Pahalgam terror attack. India too has imposed a similar ban on Pakistan. In a NOTAM (notice to airmen), the Pakistan Airports Authority said the airspace ban, which is already in force, will continue until February 24. The ban was set to expire on January 23. According to the latest NOTAM, the ban applies to all India-registered aircraft, including military flights.

Brooklyn Peltz Beckham (left), son of British footballer-celebrity couple David and Victoria Beckham, said on Tuesday that he did not want to reconcile with his parents after a family rift. AFP

Israel targets UN facilities for Palestinian refugees

It's the sharpest action yet against UN refugee body

JERUSALEM, AP/PTI

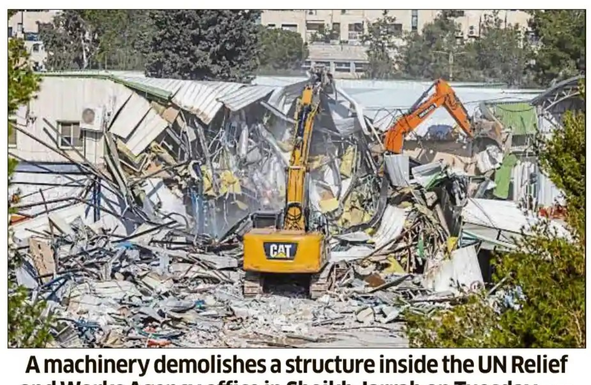
Israeli forces on Tuesday targeted at least two United Nations facilities, pushing forward with its crackdown against the UN agency for Palestinian refugees tasked with delivering humanitarian services to millions of people across the region.

Crews began bulldozing the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) offices in Sheikh Jarrah and fired tear gas at a vocational school in Qalandia, marking Israel's latest and most dramatic step against UNRWA.

Roland Friedrich, the agency's West Bank director, said UNRWA had received word that demolition crews and police arrived at their east Jerusalem headquarters early on Tuesday. Staff have not operated out of the facility for almost a year because of safety reasons, but Israeli forces confiscated devices and forced out the private security guards hired to protect the facility.

"What we saw today is the culmination of two years of incitement and measures against UNRWA in east Jerusalem," Friedrich said, calling it a violation of international law guaranteeing such facilities protection. He said forces also began firing tear gas at the vocational school for young Palestinians on the outskirts of Jerusalem on Tuesday afternoon. More than 300 young refugees receive job training in technology and welding there.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said the demolition enforced a new law banning UNRWA, noting that Israel owns the site and rejecting UNRWA's claims that the move violated international law.



A machinery demolishes a structure inside the UN Relief and Works Agency office in Sheikh Jarrah on Tuesday. AFP

Trump calls UK's Chagos deal with Mauritius 'stupid'

LONDON, AP/PTI: A startled British government on Tuesday defended its decision to hand sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, after US President Donald Trump attacked the plan, which his administration had previously supported.

Trump said that relinquishing the remote Indian Ocean archipelago, home to a strategically important American naval and bomber base, was an act of stupidity that shows why he needs to take over Greenland.

"Shockingly, our brilliant' NATO Ally, the United Kingdom, is currently planning to give away the Island of Diego Garcia, the site of a vital US Military Base, to Mauritius, and to do so FOR NO REASON WHATSOEVER," he said in a post on Truth Social. "There is no doubt that China and Russia have noticed this act of total weakness."

"The UK giving away extremely important land is an act of GREAT STUPIDITY, and is another in a very long line of National Security reasons why Greenland has to be acquired," Trump said.

World facing water bankruptcy: UN

PARIS, AFP

The world is entering an era of "global water bankruptcy" with rivers, lakes and aquifers depleting faster than nature can replenish them, a United Nations research institute said on Tuesday.

It argues that decades of overuse, pollution, environmental destruction and climate pressure had pushed many water systems so beyond the point of recovery that a new classification was required.

"Water stress and water crisis are no longer sufficient descriptions of the world's new water realities," read a new report by the UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH).

These terms were "framed as alerts about a future that could still be avoided" when the world had already moved into a "new phase", it said.

The report proposes the alternative term "water bankruptcy" — a state in which long-term water use exceeds resupply and damages nature so severely that previous levels cannot realistically be restored.

This was reflected in the shrinking of the world's large lakes, the report said, and the growing number of major rivers failing to reach the sea for parts of the year.

The world has lost enormous proportions of wetlands, with roughly 410 million hectares — nearly the size of the European Union — disappearing over the past five decades.

School accused of discrimination over pupil's tilak

LONDON, PTI: A highly rated primary school in northwest London has been accused of religious discrimination after a diaspora advocacy group claimed an eight-year-old pupil was challenged for wearing a tilak on his forehead.

INSIGHT UK claimed in a statement on Monday that the child and his family suffered "significant distress" over the issue at Vicar's Green Primary School in Wembley, leaving Hindu parents with no option but to remove at least four pupils from the school. However, the school denied any form of discrimination at its "diverse and inclusive" institution, which has pupils from more than 50 language backgrounds, including a significant number of Hindus.

"The Tilak-Chandlo is not a cosmetic or cultural accessory, it is an integral religious observance for many Hindus," said an INSIGHT UK spokesperson. "Preventing a child from practising their faith, or making them feel ashamed... is wholly unacceptable."

UK clears controversial plans for Chinese 'super embassy'

LONDON, PTI: The UK government on Tuesday approved China's plans for a so-called mega or super embassy in the heart of London, overriding security concerns raised by parliamentarians and campaigners to stress that all "material considerations" had been taken into account.

The planning permission for the proposed construction at the 20,000-square-metre site of the former Royal Mint Court near the Tower of London had been "called in" for a ministerial review as a matter of national significance.

The Labour Party government's own MPs and Opposition Tories were among those strongly opposed to the plans being greenlit, given the site's proximity to the City of London financial district and characterising China as a "hostile state".

"This statement follows the decision I made today to grant planning permission and listed building consent for a new embassy in London," said Steve Reed, the UK Housing and Communities Secretary who formally approved the plans this week.

"All material considerations were taken into account when making this decision. The decision is now final unless it is successfully challenged in court," he said.

The minister said his decision was in line with the recommendation of the independent Planning Inspector, who held a public inquiry into the case in February last year.

"This means they must make decisions fairly, based on evidence and planning rules," he added.

CRITICAL SITE

- The site is the former Royal Mint Court near the Tower of London, covering about 20,000 square metres, close to the City of London financial district.
- Opposition came from Labour MPs and Conservative politicians, who described China as a "hostile state" and warned of security risks.

India gives 60 pick-up vehicles to Nepal for March 5 polls

KATHMANDU, PTI: India on Tuesday handed over 60 of the 650 vehicles and other supplies to Nepal government as part of the preparations related to the March 5 elections in the Himalayan nation.

The first tranche of election-related assistance was handed over to Nepal's Home Minister Om Prakash Aryal in Kathmandu by Dr Rakesh Pandey, Charge d' Affairs of the Indian Embassy here.

The vehicles and other supplies gifted by India are part of the support requested by the Nepal government, according to a press release by the Indian Embassy at Kathmandu. Extending thanks to the government of India for the assistance, Aryal appreciated the deep and comprehensive nature of ties between Nepal and India.

The assistance provided by India for the upcoming Parliamentary elections includes around 650 vehicles, which will continue to be delivered in separate batches over the next few weeks.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Tender Notification (Though KPP Portal)

Karnataka Housing Board invites tender through Karnataka public procurement portal for Appointment of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the work of Construction of Minority Welfare Department – Morarji Desai school / Navodaya Type Residential school (2nd Phase) at various places under PMJVK scheme.

Notification No. : KHB/CE/PMC/NIT No. KHB/ 2025-26/SE0181 & SE0285/CALL-2 and KHB/2025-26/SE0333 to SE0337 Date: 20.01.2026.

Last date for submission of bid 03.02.2026 up to 4.00 PM

For further information contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Tel: 080-22273511. Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/5130/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ಕ್ರಸಂ. ಕಾನಿಇಂಧಾ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ.1/2025-26/4950 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.01.2026

ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ - I.F.T – KW –4

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ವಿಷಯ:- ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:- ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾನಿಇಂಧಾ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ.1,2,3,4,5/2025-26/4584, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.12.2025 ರಂದು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರು:

1) Improvement and Widening to NH to Lokur via Narendra Mangalgatti MDR From km 6.00 to km 10.00 in Selected reaches of Dharwad taluk. PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32117 ಹಾಗೂ

2) Improvement of Supa Annigeri SH-28 road in Dharwad Taluk (Improvement of roads at selected reaches in Kyarkoppa village). PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 32148. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದ ಕುರಿತು.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮಾಡಲಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಓದಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

As per publication in News Paper	Now to be Read as
1) PWD/2025-26/ RD/WORK_INDENT31537	1) PWD/2025-26/ RD/WORK_INDENT32117
2) PWD/2025-26/ RD/WORK_INDENT31553	2) PWD/2025-26/ RD/WORK_INDENT32148

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ಧಾ/ದಿಶಾ/1122/2025-26

ಸಹಿ/-
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Vijaynagar Division, 1st Floor, Shasakara Bhavan,
3rd Main Road, Vijaynagar, Bengaluru - 560040

No: EE(VJN)/Tender/KPPP/13/2025-26 Date: 20.01.2026

CORRIGENDUM-1

Subject: Regarding the postponement of downloading Tender Schedule 'B', date of receipt of Tender & opening of Tenders
Reference: EE(VJN)/TEND/KPPP/13/2025-26 date: 03.01.2026

In view of the above subject, the date of downloading Tender Schedule 'B' for the works under serial number 01 to 03 of the referred tender, the date of receipt filled tender and date of opening of technical bids have been postponed as follows. There will be no other changes in the tender rules.

Revised Calender of Events: 1. Tender forms can be downloaded from **05.02.2026** 2. Date of receipt filled tenders: **16.02.2026 upto 04.00PM.** 3.Date of opening of Technical Bid: **17.02.2026 at 4.30 PM.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division Bengaluru West City Corporation, Zone - 2

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangalore - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885796 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: MESCOM/SEE(Proj)/EE(W)/AEE(W)/1/3028/2026 Date: 14.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal Only)

MESCOM invites tender for the work of Providing Breaker protection for 1 x 5 MVA, 1x12.5 MVA Power transformers, formation of additional 33 kV Bay and providing additional 11 KV Switchgears at 33/11 kV Katipalla Sub-Station in Kavoor division on Partial Turnkey Basis vide bid enquiry no. **MESCOM/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT389**

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **21.01.2026**

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1446/25-26 dt: 20.01.2026

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Projects)

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
District Health and Family Welfare Office, Vaccine Depot,
Near 2nd Railway Gate, Tilakwadi, Belagavi - 590 006,
Ph.: 0831-2407241, E-mail: dhobelagavi-hfws@karnataka.gov.in

No. : D.R.C.H./CH/B/01/2025-26 Date : 20-01-2026

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement only)

District Health & Family Welfare Officer, Belagavi, invites item wise tender for supply of **Sanitary Napkin Pads to Govt Schools, PU Colleges and Hostels across Belagavi District under Shuchi Program** Financial Year 2025-26 from the Manufacturer or Authorized Dealers in Two Cover Bid System as per KTPP Act 1999.

Bidders Submit their Bid before : 20-01-2026 to 05-02-2026. Technical Bid Opens on : 07-02-2026.

More details and Tender Documents Download from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Any information for Tender Please Contact **District Health & Family Welfare Office, Belagavi** During Working Hours **(Except General Holidays).**

Sd/- District Health & Family Welfare Officer, Belagavi.

DIPR/Belagavi/1663/Manipal/2025-26

Core sector growth rises to 4-month high in December

Logs 3.7% growth on back of steel, cement, electricity performance

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's core infrastructure output growth jumped to a four-month high of 3.7% in December, driven by good performance of steel, cement and electricity sectors, even as oil and gas segments continued to drag, official data showed on Tuesday.

The eight core industries that include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity, had posted a growth of 2.1% in November. In December 2024, it stood at 5.1%.

These eight core sectors together account for about 40% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

On a cumulative basis, core sector output registered a growth of 2.6% during April-December 2025, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

Sectoral uptick

- 13.5% Cement production surge
- 6.9% Rise in steel output
- 4.1% Fertiliser output growth
- 5.3% Electricity generation increase
- 3.6% Coal production growth

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Cement production surged 13.5% in December, while steel output rose 6.9%, underpinning resilience in construction and infrastructure-linked demand. Electricity generation increased by 5.3%, and fertiliser output grew by 4.1% during the month, data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry showed.

The uptick was not broad-based, and was largely driven by electricity generation, which rose by 5.3% in the month, after contracting in each of the last two months.

Five of the eight sectors, barring coal and steel, apart from electricity, witnessed a deterioration in their year-on-year growth rates in December, as compared to the previous month.

Coal production rose by 3.6% in December, although its cumulative output for April-December remained 0.7% lower when compared with the last year.

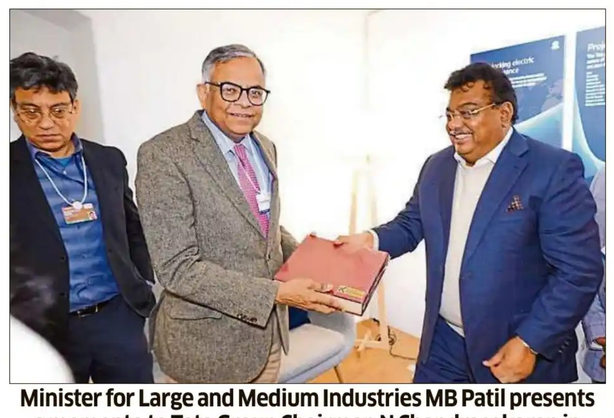
"Notably, while growth in cement output decelerated in December 2025 compared to November 2025, it remained in double digits, which along with the healthy growth in steel output suggests that construction activity likely remained robust in the month," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA.

As per ICRA, the IIP growth is likely to ease to 4.5-5.0% in December 2025, from 6.7% in November 2025, with the sharp turnaround in the performance of the electricity sector offsetting the likely slowdown in the manufacturing segment.

Patil invites global firms to invest in Karnataka

Holds talks with Menzies Aviation, Tata Group, and The Coca-Cola Company

BENGALURU, DHNS



Minister for Large and Medium Industries MB Patil presents a memento to Tata Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran in Davos on Monday.

Minister for Large and Medium Industries M B Patil, who is participating in the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos, on Monday held discussions with senior representatives of Menzies Aviation, UPL, The Coca-Cola Company, Tata Sons, Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB InBev) and Natural Fiber Welding (NFW Earth).

In a press statement issued from Davos, the Minister said that Menzies Aviation has already invested $25 million in Bengaluru for the development of cargo handling operations. The company is now exploring opportunities to offer additional services at the Kempegowda International Airport and has expressed its willingness to invest a further $10 million. In addition, Menzies Aviation has shown interest in establishing a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in the State, he said.

The fertiliser major UPL is looking to expand its operations in Karnataka. The company currently has an annual turnover of 300 crore in North Karnataka and has now expressed interest in importing potash through the Mangaluru port. It has also proposed promoting maize-based industries in the State. UPL has developed a new technology which can enhance agricultural productivity while reducing the use of urea in farming by 30%. The company has also expressed interest in setting up an ethanol production unit, Patil said.

Last year, The Coca-Cola Company had announced its plans to invest Rs 25,760 crore in India in the coming years. Efforts are being made to attract a significant share of this investment to Karnataka. In this context, the subsidies and incentives available in the State's industrial sector were explained to the company's representatives. Given the substantial water requirements for beverage manufacturing, Vijayapura was suggested as a suitable location, Patil said.

AB InBev, which operates a beer manufacturing unit in Mysuru, has expressed interest in further expanding its production in the State.

Meanwhile, Natural Fiber Welding (NFW Earth), which is engaged in developing alternatives to plastic, has decided to invest Rs 1,800 crore in India in the first phase and has agreed to submit its project proposal to the State government shortly.

Tata Group, which already provides employment to 1.30 lakh people in Bengaluru, has shared details of the requirements for its future projects planned in Karnataka, Patil added.

The high-level delegation accompanying the Minister includes S Selvakumar, Principal Secretary, Department of Industries, and Commissioner Gunjan Krishna, among others.

'Infosys among top-3 most-valuable IT services brands'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Infosys has been recognised as one of the world's top-3 most-valuable IT services brands by Brand Finance, a brand valuation firm.

In the Brand Finance Global 500 2026 report, the IT services firm is recognised for leading the industry as the fastest-growing brand with 15% CAGR over the last six years and a brand value of $16.4 billion in 2026.

"Infosys' recognition as one of the top-3 IT services brands globally is a reflection of the trust our clients place in us and the enduring strength of the brand Infosys," said Infosys Global Chief Marketing Officer Sumit Virmani.

"Our commitment to amplifying human potential through transformative enterprise AI solutions, combined with our focus on AI value discovery and value realisation at scale, continues to set us apart," he added.

"Infosys has shown exceptional growth, ranked once again as the world's third most valuable IT services brand, with a brand value of $16.4 billion, and named the fastest growing IT Services brand over the past 6 years with a brand value CAGR of 15%," Brand Finance Chief Executive Officer and Chairman David Haigh said.

"Infosys continues to experience strong demand across its AI, cloud, and digital transformation services," Haigh added.

Gold breaches Rs 1.5 lakh/10g-mark on strong demand

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, PTI

Gold prices jumped Rs 5,100 on Tuesday to breach the crucial Rs 1.5 lakh-per-10-gram milestone in the national capital, driven by strong demand in domestic and international markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The yellow metal of 99.9% purity traded at Rs 1,53,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) against the previous closing level of Rs 1,48,100 per 10 grams.

Silver prices also strengthened in the local bullion market and scaled a fresh peak. The white metal skyrocketed by Rs 20,400, or nearly 7%, to Rs 3,23,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes).

On Monday, silver prices rallied Rs 10,000, surging past the Rs 3 lakh-per-kilogram mark in the national capital. According to forex.com, spot gold breached the $4,700 per ounce level for the first time in the international market. The yellow metal increased by $66.38, or 1.42 per cent, to $4,737.40 per ounce.

Spot silver also climbed to hit a new record of $95.88 per ounce in the overseas trade.

Rupee down 7 paise

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee depreciated 7 paise to close at a record low of 90.97 against the US dollar on Tuesday, as strong dollar demand from metal importers and persistent foreign fund outflows dented investor sentiment.

Forex traders said rising geopolitical uncertainties, including renewed US expansionary signals, have increased risk aversion and kept emerging market currencies under pressure. Moreover, a sluggish domestic stock market triggered by an exodus of foreign capital further weighed on the local unit, they said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 90.91 and lost ground, touched an intraday low of 91.06, and finally ended the day at an all-time low of 90.97 against the American currency.

On Monday, the rupee depreciated by 12 paise to close at 90.90 against the greenback.

"The Indian rupee traded with a negative bias and slipped below the 91-mark on risk aversion in global markets and persistent FII outflows. However, a weak dollar and intervention by the RBI prevented a sharp fall," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.91% lower at 98.48.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading at $63.94 per barrel in futures trade.

PhonePe gets Sebi nod for IPO

NEW DELHI, PTI: PhonePe has received Sebi approval for its IPO, and the company will be filing its Updated Draft Red Herring Prospectus (UDRHP) soon, setting the stage for India's most-anticipated fintech IPO in the near horizon, as per sources familiar with the development.

The IPO will be an Offer For Sale by existing shareholders. The company will not be raising any additional primary capital in the IPO, sources said.

PhonePe leads India's digital payments market with over 45% market share in UPI transactions.

In December 2025, the company processed 9.8 billion transactions, according to NPCI data.

The company had posted Rs 7,115 crore in revenues for FY24-25, marking a 40% year-on-year increase. The company also turned free cash flow positive with operating cash flow of Rs 1,202 crore. Its adjusted PAT (excluding ESOP costs) more than tripled to Rs 630 crore.

PhonePe's public listing will set a crucial benchmark for India's digital payments sector and could pave the way for other fintech unicorns eyeing public markets.

Tata Motors' new trucks being unveiled at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Tata Motors to ride GST 2.0 boost to maintain momentum

NEW DELHI, PTI: Riding high on GST 2.0 revving up commercial vehicle demand, Tata Motors is looking to leverage the momentum with a new range of trucks across electric and internal combustion engine versions, according to its MD and CEO Girish Wagh.

Girish Wagh

The company, which has been present in the electric last-mile delivery logistics segment, is now expanding its electric offering into heavier trucks, Wagh said.

Besides, he said the company's new ICE models, including the all-new Azura range, will provide its customers better profitability through higher load capacity, better fuel mileage and enhanced safety as it looks to increase overall market share.

"The (CV) industry has picked up in Q3 after the GST 2.0 rate rationalisation. Across all segments, the industry has picked up," he said.

From Q2 to Q3, total industry registrations have increased by 25.8%, while Tata Motors volumes have increased by around 29.4%, Wagh noted.

"That is a good start, and therefore now we want to leverage this positivity and momentum with a new range of trucks," he said, referring to the company's launch of 17 'next-generation' trucks, including its electric truck range based on I-MOEV Architecture (Intelligent Modular Electric Vehicle Architecture).

On the sales outlook, Wagh said, "Currently, we are in the silent period, but still, I'll reiterate the guidance that we have given. We are quite positive, because three months have already passed since the GST 2.0, and each month has actually turned out very well."

Wagh further said, "We are looking very optimistically towards this quarter, and if this quarter also turns out exactly in the same way as Q3, then I think we are looking at good times ahead."

Looking at Venezuelan crude: MRPL

MANGALURU, DHNS: Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) is actively exploring avenues to purchase Venezuelan crude for processing, MRPL Director (Finance) and CFO Devendra Kumar said.

"We are actively looking at it. The freight rates are expected to be on the higher side when the company gets it from Venezuela, and also it is a low API crude. So we will look at the total terms and conditions and the commercials," he informed during the earnings call on Monday.

Devendra said MRPL complies with all international sanctions. Presently, no Russian crude is being imported. The company will continue to comply with government guidelines, he said, adding that it does not expect anything to stop its export of finished products in future.

URBAN CRUISER EBELLA

Toyota rolls out first battery electric model

MUMBAI, PTI

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) is looking to expand its product range in India with a mix of internal combustion engine (ICE) models, hybrids and battery electric vehicles, catering to a diverse set of customers, according to a top executive.

The company on Tuesday expanded its product range with the introduction of its first battery electric model Urban Cruiser Ebella in the country, where it currently sells strong hybrid, diesel and petrol cars.

In an interaction with PTI, TKM Deputy MD Tadashi Asazuma noted that the company is preparing for a product portfolio to cater to emerging customer requirements. "The trends are still not clear whether there is a real demand for battery electric vehicles (BEVs) or if the demand is shifting towards such models. But we still believe that as long as the customer requirement differs, we should prepare for diverse powertrains and electrification," he stated.

Toyota's Urban Cruiser Ebella electric vehicle on display during a launch event in Mumbai on Tuesday. REUTERS

When asked how the company's product portfolio will look over the next 3-4 years, Asazuma stated, "Simply speaking, multi-pathway (approach), because we believe this is a transitional practical answer."

The Urban Cruiser Ebella represents an important step in advancing the company's multi-pathway approach, offering customers a wider choice of electrified powertrain technologies and supporting India's goal of energy security and decarbonisation, he said.

He noted that with many companies introducing electric models, the demand for such cars has grown continuously over the last 3-4 years.

"There is more visibility in the market and this is giving a sort of confidence to the customer, or maybe removing the anxiety as far as the BEVs are concerned. That is why we are also introducing a model. This is maybe a good time to introduce, but we do not think that 100% of the buyers will go for BEVs. The EV customers would mostly like to drive within the city," Asazuma stated.

Meanwhile, he noted that the Urban Cruiser Ebella would be exported to Europe. TKM will be sourcing the vehicle from Maruti Suzuki as part of the global alliance between Suzuki and Toyota. The model comes with two battery options — 49 kWh and 61 kWh, offering up to 543 km on a single charge km range.

RMZ to invest $10 billion in Andhra Pradesh

BENGALURU, DHNS: RMZ and the Andhra Pradesh Government on Tuesday announced a strategic investment partnership at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2026 in Davos, aimed at facilitating long-term global investment of approximately $10 billion into mixed-use, digital and industrial infrastructure across the state.

Accordingly, RMZ will develop a GCC at Kapuluppada Phase-1 IT Park in Visakhapatnam, with a built-up area of up to 10 million sq ft over around 50 acres. It will also plan a hyperscale data centre cluster in the Visakhapatnam region with a targeted capacity of up to 1 GW, to support next-generation digital and AI workloads. In the Rayalaseema region, it would develop an Industrial and Logistics Park at Tekulodu.

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉತ್ತರ) ಕಚೇರಿ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.hdmc.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎಚ್‌ಡಿಎಮ್‌ಸಿ/61/12/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–01–2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ / ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಸನ್ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಡ ವಾರು ಅನುದಾನ, ಸನ್ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಉಪ ಮಹಾಪೌರರ ಅನುದಾನ ಹಾಗೂ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಆದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ PWD ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ (SC) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ

1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 53181 ರೂ. 11.09ಲಕ್ಷ
2) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 53963 ರೂ. 6.90ಲಕ್ಷ
3) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 54176 ರೂ. 10.00ಲಕ್ಷ
4) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 54259 ರೂ. 12.31ಲಕ್ಷ
5) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 54178 ರೂ. 20.00ಲಕ್ಷ

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದ (ST) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ

6) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 53410 ರೂ. 14.00ಲಕ್ಷ
7) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 54260 ರೂ. 7.80ಲಕ್ಷ

(CAT-1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ

8) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 42561 ರೂ. 16.00ಲಕ್ಷ

(CAT-2A) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ

9) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 53629 ರೂ. 39.00ಲಕ್ಷ
10) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– SE7118ರೂ. 47.75ಲಕ್ಷ
11) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 53182 ರೂ. 4.00ಲಕ್ಷ
12) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 53984 ರೂ. 2.35ಲಕ್ಷ
13) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 53982 ರೂ. 7.00ಲಕ್ಷ

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ

14) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 53402 ರೂ. 10.00ಲಕ್ಷ
15) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 54129 ರೂ. 15.00ಲಕ್ಷ
16) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 54130 ರೂ. 8.20ಲಕ್ಷ
17) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 54128 ರೂ. 11.80ಲಕ್ಷ
18) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 53964 ರೂ. 6.90ಲಕ್ಷ
19) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 53960 ರೂ. 5.00ಲಕ್ಷ
20) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 54127 ರೂ. 10.00ಲಕ್ಷ
21) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 53981 ರೂ. 3.00ಲಕ್ಷ
22) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 53711 ರೂ. 20.00ಲಕ್ಷ
23) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 54156 ರೂ. 15.00ಲಕ್ಷ
24) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 54183 ರೂ. 14.00ಲಕ್ಷ
25) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 54261 ರೂ. 25.00ಲಕ್ಷ
26) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 51201 ರೂ. 20.00ಲಕ್ಷ
27) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 54194 ರೂ. 6.00ಲಕ್ಷ

ಮರು ಕರೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ

(CAT-1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ

28) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 51582 ರೂ. 16.47ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)

(CAT-2A) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ

29) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 48667 ರೂ. 12.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)
30) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 52281 ರೂ. 4.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)
31) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 52220 ರೂ. 10.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)
32) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 52332 ರೂ. 47.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ

33) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 52396 ರೂ. 25.20ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)
34) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 45538 ರೂ. 7.20ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)
35) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 51386 ರೂ. 15.00ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ)
36) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 47021 ರೂ. 19.35ಲಕ್ಷ (4ನೇ ಕರೆ)
37) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 48813 ರೂ. 25.00ಲಕ್ಷ (4ನೇ ಕರೆ)
38) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 47900 ರೂ. 25.00ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ)
39) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 34874 ರೂ. 20.00ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ)
40) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 44540 ರೂ. 6.45ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ)
41) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 44538 ರೂ. 6.45ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ)
42) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 37291 ರೂ. 5.70ಲಕ್ಷ (9ನೇ ಕರೆ)
43) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 43489 ರೂ. 9.24ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ)
44) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 40212 ರೂ. 25.00ಲಕ್ಷ (8ನೇ ಕರೆ)
45) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 49588 ರೂ. 6.85ಲಕ್ಷ (4ನೇ ಕರೆ)
46) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 37289 ರೂ. 5.80ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ)
47) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 39194 ರೂ. 6.00ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ)
48) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 43491 ರೂ. 5.40ಲಕ್ಷ (4ನೇ ಕರೆ)
49) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 37816 ರೂ. 2.10ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ)
50) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 49898 ರೂ. 26.10ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ)
51) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 48037 ರೂ. 24.95ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ)
52) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 32696 ರೂ. 10.40ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ)
53) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 44209 ರೂ. 3.75ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ)
54) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 46373 ರೂ. 18.00ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ)
55) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 46141 ರೂ. 5.00ಲಕ್ಷ (4ನೇ ಕರೆ)
56) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 44536 ರೂ. 6.45ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ)
57) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 46020 ರೂ. 18.00ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ)
58) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 45540 ರೂ. 17.60ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ)
59) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 45514 ರೂ. 8.20ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ)
60) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 43492 ರೂ. 6.09ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ)
61) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– 43486 ರೂ. 10.04ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ).

ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಅವಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉತ್ತರ) ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಚೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:0836:2213834ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–01–2026 ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 05, 06 08 ರಿಂದ 10, 26, 27, 50 ರಿಂದ 61ರ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–02–2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 05, 06 08 ರಿಂದ 10, 26, 27, 50 ರಿಂದ 61ರ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:04–02–2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 01 ರಿಂದ 04, 07, 11 ರಿಂದ 25 28 ರಿಂದ 49ರ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10–02–2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 01 ರಿಂದ 04, 07, 11 ರಿಂದ 25 28 ರಿಂದ 49ರ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:11–02–2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉತ್ತರ)
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1119/ಅಡ್ವರ್ಟೈ/2025–26

The meteoric rise of Shagun, looking to emulate 'idol' Melissa

15-year-old volleyball player from Karkala hopes to win an Olympic medal for India

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

At an age when most 14-year-olds would watch their favourite athletes get honoured on television, Shagun S Varma was given a rousing welcome with a procession at her hometown in Karkala.

"I really did not like it (procession) because I am not interested in that sort of attention," Shagun tells *DH*.

"I don't like felicitations. I just attended it for my parents as they insisted. I want to concentrate on sports and If I achieve greater things, then it will be worth it."

Shagun had just returned home having led India to the quarterfinals in the under-15 Girls' Volleyball Championships, organised by the International School Games Federation (ISGF) in China last December.

The class nine student had broken into the Indian side by acing the selection trials, first in Bengaluru and then in Pune.

After impressing the selectors with her attacking prowess, she was picked in the first 23. Following a series of good performances, she made the 14, then the playing six and eventually was named captain.

"It was my first-ever selection trial ever. We were asked to come to Bengaluru and then Pune. After several rounds, I was picked in the first six and then was named captain."

While the career has seen a rapid rise, Shagun is grateful to her school PT teacher Prakash Naik, who introduced her to the sport.

"I only started volleyball in sixth standard. I was 12. We had school matches, so our PT sir introduced me. That is how I got to know. Very happy that I did. Then I was put in a free coaching centre."

It was initially for just trying out, but when she started scaling the ranks through the junior circuit, she decided to go all in.

"It took me a good year to slowly start getting better. In 7th standard, I improved. We started to play open matches, then with my seniors. My coaches took me to district games and then to state matches."

What began as just a practice on weekends, turned into five days a week in the evenings. Then, twice a day, including special practice 30 days prior to every tournament.

"Earlier, I was only taking evening sessions but now, I go twice to practice twice a day and special training starts a month before a big tournament."

Having modelled her work ethic and mindset from watching clips of her "idol" Melissa Vargas (Turkish volleyball player), Shagun wants to emulate her.

"My idol is Melissa. I want to be like her. I want to work hard, make sacrifices and want to be better than her. Before I sleep every night, I watch videos of her playing and think about how I can be like her."

While volleyball might not be the most celebrated sport in India, Shagun has dreams of competing on the world's biggest stage and winning an Olympic medal for her country.

"I want to play in the Olympics. The senior team never goes there, so I want my Indian team to play in the Olympics and win a medal, and for that, I am willing to work hard."

For feedback, email to dhsports@deccanherald.co.in

FACT FILE

Shagun S Varma
Age: 15

ACHIEVEMENTS

- U-15 World Championships: Quarterfinals
- U-14 Clusters, Karkala: Gold
- Mysuru Divisions: Bronze
- U-17 Clusters: Gold
- Karnataka Games: Gold
- U-17 Karkala tournament: Best Smasher
- U-14 Clusters: Best Attacker
- U-14 Divisions: Best Spiker award

Dev Kumar Meena

Leading pole vaulter humiliated by Railways

NEW DELHI, PTI: India's national record holder in pole vault Dev Kumar Meena and his coach Ghanshyam were subjected to a humiliating experience at Panvel Railway Station as they were forced to deboard a train after being denied permission to carry their sports equipment.

Initially asked to leave their equipment behind by the Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE), they were allowed entry only after prolonged pleading and payment of a fine, the incident triggering outrage on social media.

The 20-year old Dev, who broke his own national record for the third time at the World University Games in Germany in July 2025 with a jump of 5.40 metres, was returning from the All India Inter-University Championship in Mangaluru along with fellow athlete Kuldeep -- who set a meet record -- and other teammates.

"We were returning from Mangaluru and had to take a train from Panvel to Bhopal. I went out to have some food while some of the players were sitting near the poles outside the station when the ticket collector asked them to remove the equipment," coach Ghanshyam said on Tuesday.

Meanwhile the Central Railway CPRO has said that there has never been any intention by any railway personnel to hurt the sentiments of any player.

TENNIS AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Sinner breaks no sweat

Osaka turns on style, 'future star' Fonseca exits in the opening round

MELBOURNE, AFP

Jannik Sinner barely broke sweat in launching his quest to win a third Australian Open in a row on Tuesday as Naomi Osaka stole the show with a bold fashion statement.

The Italian Sinner strolled into round two when French opponent Hugo Gaston retired on Rod Laver Arena with the second seed in full control at 6-2, 6-1.

Popular Frenchman Gael Monfils meanwhile bid farewell to Melbourne Park with an epic defeat and thanks for "an amazing ride". Great entertainer Monfils was bundled out in the first round in a brave goodbye to a tournament he has lit up so many times down the years.

The 39-year-old, one of the most colourful and popular players in men's tennis, battled all the way but Australian qualifier Dane Sweeny prevailed 6-7 (3/7), 7-5, 6-4, 7-5 in an epic lasting nearly four hours. Italian fifth seed Lorenzo Musetti moved on when his Belgian opponent Raphael Collignon retired in the fourth set.

Ben Shelton, the eighth seed and a semifinalist last year, saw off France's Ugo Humbert, 6-3, 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/5).

Japan's Naomi Osaka carries her hat as she walks off the court after defeating Croatia's Antonia Ruzic in the opening round of the Australian Open in Melbourne on Tuesday. AFP

But Brazilian 19-year-old Joao Fonseca, touted on the eve of the tournament by Roger Federer as a star of the future, was dumped out by Eliot Spizzirri at the first hurdle.

The American defied the crowd of chanting Brazilian fans to win 6-4, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Former world number one Osaka emerged for the last match on Rod Laver Arena clutching a white parasol and wearing a matching wide-brimmed hat and veil.

The 28-year-old from Japan is well known for her on- and off-court fashion statements.

She wore her latest outfit as she came out for her night match against Croatia's Antonia Ruzic.

She waved regally to the crowd and the four-time Grand Slam champion then folded up the umbrella and neatly put the hat and veil to the side.

Osaka, a two-time former champion, went on to win 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 and said of her eye-catching outfit: "It is modelled after jellyfish, it's really beautiful."

Key results: Men's singles Round 1: 2-Jannik Sinner (Ita) bt Hugo Gaston (Fra) 6-2, 6-1, 0-0 ret.; 5-Lorenzo Musetti (Ita) bt Raphael Collignon (Bel) 4-6, 7-6 (3), 7-5, 3-2 ret; Lorenzo Sonego (Ita) bt Carlos Taberner (ESP) 6-4, 6-0, 6-3; Tomas Machac (Cze) bt Grigor Dimitrov (Bul) 6-4, 6-4, 6-3; 9-Taylor Fritz (USA) bt Valentin Royer (Fra) 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-1, 6-3; 8-Ben Shelton (USA) bt Ugo Humbert (Fra) 6-3, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (5) ; 15-Karen Khachanov (Rus) bt Alex Michelsen (USA) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3; **Women's singles:** 16-Naomi Osaka (Jpn) bt Antonia Ruzic (Cro) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; Janice Tjen (INA) bt 22-Leylah Fernandez (Can) 6-2, 7-6 (1); 9-Madison Keys (USA) bt Oleksandra Oliynykova (Ukr) 7-6 (8), 6-1; 24-Jelena Ostapenko (Lat) bt Rebecca Sramkova (SVK) 6-4, 6-4; 5-Elena Rybakina (Kaz) bt Kaja Juvan (Slo) 6-4, 6-3; 10-Belinda Bencic (SUI) bt Katie Boulter (GBR) 6-0, 7-5.

Poonacha-Isaro bow out

India's Niki Poonacha and his Thai partner Pruchya Isaro exited the men's doubles event at the Australian Open after suffering a narrow 6-7(3) 5-7 defeat against Pedro Martinez and Jaume Munar in the first-round on Tuesday, reports PTI.

India bids for World Indoor Athletics 2028

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has bid to host the World Indoor Athletics Championships for the 2028 edition with Bhubaneswar considered as the host city.

The Kalinga Indoor Athletics Stadium in Odisha's capital, which is the only dedicated indoor athletics stadium in the country, will be the host if India wins the bid, a senior AFI official confirmed to *DH*. Back in 2024, New Zealand also expressed its interest in hosting the 2028 edition of the event.

The state-of-the-art facility, which is also bidding for the Asian Indoor Championships in the same year, is to be inspected on Wednesday by World Athletics officials who reached India on Tuesday night.

The stadium is set to host India's first Indoor National Championships in the last week of March in a two-day event.

The multipurpose Kalinga Stadium, which is right next to the indoor arena, is also set to host the WA Silver-Level Continental Tour for the first time in India (in August) after successfully hosting the bronze-level meet last year.

AFI has been bidding for several international-level meets in the recent past, including Asian Relays, with Delhi's JLN Stadium as the likely host.

Kostoulas saves Brighton

BRIGHTON (UK), AFP: Charalampos Kostoulas snatched a superb late equaliser as Brighton survived Marcus Tavernier's controversial penalty to rescue a 1-1 draw against Bournemouth on Monday.

Kostoulas netted with a brilliant overhead kick in stoppage-time at the Amex Stadium after Bournemouth led through Tavernier's dubious first half goal.

Om, Shravani bag 400m gold at State Games

BENGALURU, DHNS

Belagavi's Om Sunil Chavan clocked a 48.6 seconds to claim the gold medal in the men's 400m final of the Karnataka State Games in Tumkur on Tuesday.

In the women's 400m final, Shravani Bhate reigned supreme with a timing of 55.70 seconds. In weightlifting, Dakshina Kannada's Seema Jayajkanth won the gold medal in the women's 69kg category while her team-mate Manasa S won the 77kg event.

Men's 400m winner Om Sunil Chavan (centre) poses with his spoils.

Results (Winners only): Men: Athletics 110 m hurdles: Ratan Gouda Patil (15.6s). **400m:** Om Sunil Chavan (48.6 sec). **1000m:** Sandeep T.C (34:38.5). **1500m:** Kalyan JR (3:55.0 sec). **Triple jump:** Yashas R Gowda (15.13m). **4×100m relay:** Udupi (Mark Antony D'Costa, Danush K, Ankith Jogi, Abhin Devadiga - 41.5). **TT: Doubles:** Rohit Shankar and Ramkumar **Tennis: Singles:** Jason David. Doubles: Abhishek Reddy and Dhanush **Weightlifting: 94kg:** Santosh MK. **88kg:** Sachin Kumar M. **79kg:** Hrithik Shetty. **Women: 400m:** Shravani Bhate (55.7s). **1000m:** Shahin SD (40:59.2). **1500m:** HV Deeksha (5:20.6). **4×100m relay:** Belagavi (Smita Pramod Kakatkar, Nakosha Mahadev, Apruva Anand Naik, Vaibhavi Balu Budruk - 49.9). **Triple jump:** Nithya Shree U (11.92m). **Discus Throw:** Madhurya (43.50). **Shot put:** Reddy Sanjana (12.54). **Javelin throw:** Karishma S Sanil (49.40). **Tennis: Singles:** Hridayeshi Pai. **Doubles:** Bharathiyana, Hridayeshi Pai **Weightlifting: 69kg:** Seema Jayajkanth. **77kg:** Manasa S. **+86kg:** Bhuvaneshwari.

Zaib stars in AL Fateh FC's thrilling win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Zaib Sherief scored a brace while Shaik Inayath Ullasaheb found the back of the net as AL Fateh FC scripted a thrilling 3-2 win over ADE FC in the BDFA B Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Tuesday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

ADE FC's Kishore Kumar S opened the scoring in the 16th minute, while Zaib found the equaliser in the 38th. Shaik scored in the 49th minute to give Fateh a 2-1 advantage. Athul Krishna PA then scored in the 78th minute to make it 2-2, before Zaib scored the winner in the final stages of the game.

In the day's other fixtures, South India FC beat Pillanna Garden FC 2-1, while Bangalore Warriors FC played out a 2-2 draw with Vehicles FC.

Results: AL Fateh FC: 3 (Zaib Sherief 38th, 80+4th, Shaik Inayath Ullasaheb 49th) bt ADE FC: 2 (Kishore Kumar S 16th, Athul Krishna PA 78th); Bangalore Warriors FC: 2 (D Akash 40th+3, Vishal 80th+3 pen) drew with Vehicles FC: 2 (Athing Dang Sangtm L 29th, Charles A 45th); South India FC: 2 (Jedidiah Mervin 2nd, MD Sarif 74th) bt Pillanna Garden FC: 1 (Alan Sanjay Xavier 63rd pen).

Toofans live to fight another day

BHUBANESHWAR, PTI

With their tournament on the line, Hyderabad Toofans registered a narrow 3-2 victory against HIL GC in their last league stage match of the Men's Hero Hockey India League (HIL) here on Tuesday.

Amandeep Lakra

Zachary Wallace, Amandeep Lakra and Shilanand Lakra were on target for Hyderabad, while Kane Russell scored a brace for HIL GC.

The opening exchanges saw HIL GC control possession before Hyderabad Toofans took the lead against the run of play, scoring from a penalty corner.

Zacharay Wallace's (6th) effort found its way into the back of the net after a deflection, evading James Mazarelo in goal. It took HIL GC only two minutes to get back on level terms though, as they scored from their first penalty corner courtesy a dragflick from Kane Russell (8th).

Showing resilience in this must-win game, the Toofans responded instantaneously from their second penalty corner as Amandeep Lakra (8th) rifled his dragflick past the keeper, giving his side a 2-1 advantage at the end of an engaging first quarter.

The Toofans continued to push forward in the second quarter, forcing James Mazarelo into action on a couple of occasions. They eventually made the pressure count and doubled their lead with Shilanand Lakra (27th) scoring from close range.

Despite the two-goal deficit, HIL GC were creating opportunities with regularity, posing a consistent threat going forward throughout the first half.

It was an ideal start to the second half for HIL GC as Kane Russell (31st) bagged his brace helping his side pull a goal back by converting his dragflick from a penalty corner for the second time in the match.

With only one goal separating the two sides, both teams showcased enough attacking intent as they looked to add more goals to their tally, but neither managed to make the most of their opportunities.

Anmol, Aakarshi enter main draw

JAKARTA, PTI: Indian youngster Anmol Jharb and compatriot Aakarshi Kashyap won their respective qualifying round matches to advance to the women's main draw of the USD 500,000 Indonesia Masters here on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old Anmol, who has shocked several higher ranked over the course of her impressive career, humbled Canadian world No. 45 Wen Yu Zhang 21-18, 20-22, 21-19 in an engrossing contest.

Aakarshi, 24, defeated Isharani Baruah 21-13, 21-17 in an all-Indian matchup.

The duo will join PV Sindhu, Malvika Bansod and Tanvi Sharma in the first round of the women's singles main draw on Wednesday.

The men's doubles pair of MR Arjun and Hariharan Amsakarunan, the only Indians in the main draw on the opening day of the Super 500 tournament, beat Indonesia's Devin Artha Wahyudi and Ali Faathir Rayhan 21-19, 21-13 in their round of 32 match.

In other qualification matches, former junior world No. 1 Tasnim Mir came up short against Denmark's Amalie Schulz 12-21, 16-21, while the women's doubles duo of Rashmi Ganesh and Sania Sikkandar went down to top seeds Keng Shu Liang and Li Hua Zhou of China 21-23, 10-21.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Malleshwaram Zone
Office of the Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BWCC Building, Chennammanakere Achukattu, Vidyapeeta, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085.

No:EE(BG)/KPPP/TEND/09/2025-26 Date: 20.01.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPPP only) website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BWCC Bengaluru, invites tender from eligible Tenderers registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with PWD/CPWD or any State Government Organisation for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Package
1.	Annual Maintenance of Roads and Footpaths in Ward Jurisdiction area in Ward No.197. (Single Cover System) (Call-2). **Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs) 25.39, (EMD in ₹) 51,000/-.**
2.	Annual Maintenance of Roads and Footpaths in Ward Jurisdiction area in Ward No.198. (Single Cover System) (Call-2). **Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs) 25.38, (EMD in ₹) 51,000/-.**
3.	Annual Maintenance of Roads and Footpaths in Ward Jurisdiction area in Ward No.199. (Single Cover System) (Call-2). **Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs) 25.40, (EMD in ₹) 51,000/-.**
4.	Annual Maintenance of Roads and Footpaths in Ward Jurisdiction area in Ward No.200.(Single Cover System) (Call-2). **Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs) 25.37, (EMD in ₹) 51,000/-.**
5.	Annual Maintenance of Roads and Footpaths in Ward Jurisdiction area in Ward No.201. (Single Cover System) (Call-2). **Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs) 25.38, (EMD in ₹) 51,000/-.**
6.	Renovation, Repairs of KH Kala Soudha Auditorium Building in Ward No.196 in Basavanagudi Constituency. (Two Cover System) (Call-3). **Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs) 56.06, (EMD in ₹) 1,13,000/-.**
7.	Repairs and Maintenance of Dhobhi Ghats in Basavanagudi Constituency. (Single Cover System) (Call-2). **Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs) 41.50, (EMD in ₹) 83,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender Document may be downloaded through the KPP Portal from **22.01.2026 from 3:00 p.m. onwards. (2)** Last Date & Time for uploading tender documents: **02.02.2026 upto 3:00 p.m. (3)** Pre-Bid Meeting **29.01.2026 at 4:00 p.m. (4)** Opening of Tender on **03.02.2026 at 4:00 p.m. (5)** Financial Bid opening : **Opening date will be intimated through KPP Portal.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC.

KARNATAKA STATE BEVERAGES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
4th Floor, TTMC 'A' Block, BMTC Building, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027, Ph: 22483636/38/39
e-mail: edfa@ksbcl.com, ma@ksbcl.com, mbrs@kscl.com

No. KSBCL/2025-26/AUCTION 13 Dated:21.01.2026

e- AUCTION NOTICE
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement portal only)

Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Limited has decided to invest ₹60.00 crores in Fixed Deposits(callable) for a tenure of one year with Public Sector Banks including Regional Rural Banks. Competitive Interest Rates are invited from these Banks through e-Auction for acceptance of deposits. Terms and conditions are available at website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** and **www.ksbcl.com** from **21.01.2026 onwards**.

DIPR/CP/JA/5122/2025-26

Sd/-
Executive Director (Fin & MIS)

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tenders through KPP Portal from reputed agencies against Enquiry No: **BESCOM/GM(A&HR)/BC-50/2505/03/2025-26** for providing **Manpower Services to various offices of BESCOM** for a period of ONE year. Date of Issue of Bid Documents: **22.01.2026 @ 16.00 Hrs.** Due Date for submission of Bid Document: **05.02.2026 up to 16.00 Hrs.** Date of Opening of Bid Document: **06.02.2026 at 17.00 Hrs.**

The Tender documents can be obtained through e-procurement by visiting website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. All clarifications about e-payment contact e-procurement helpdesk. For Tender related queries call: **080 22258788.**

For Electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP.

Sd/- General Manager (A&HR)
Corporate Office, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 560001.

INSTITUTE OF NEPHRO-UROLOGY
(Government of Karnataka-Autonomous Institute -Regd. No. 1052/03-04)
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Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02. Ph: 080-26700460, Fax: 26706777
E-Mail: nephrourology.institute@gmail.com Website: www.nephrourology.in

No: INU-ADMN0PROC/55/2022/25 Date: 19.01.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the General Public that the General in-patients files for the year 2020 at the Institute of Nephro-Urology and previous old Dialysis Records of year before 2023 Old Books of the Ward and old forms are being disposed of and destroyed. Patients/Legal Heirs of Patients can obtain the required information by submitting a request within 30 days from publication of this Notice to the Medical Superintendent, Institute of Nephro-Urology, Victotia Campus, Bengaluru. **Applications received after disposal and after 30 days of publication of this Notice will not be considered.** Therefore It is informed and hereby published that you or your legal heirs can obtain the treatment information within 30 days.

Sd/- Director, Institute of Nephro-Urology, Bengaluru.

Malajczuk smashes fastest century in U-19 WC history

WINDHOEK (NAMIBIA), PTI: Australia's left-handed batter Will Malajczuk smashed the fastest century in the history of the ICC U-19 World Cup, off just 51 balls, to steer Australia to a convincing eight-wicket victory over Japan here on Tuesday.

Chasing 202, the opener scored half of his team's runs with a stunning 102 from 55 balls to secure Australia's second win of their title defence and a place in the Super Sixes.

Having won the toss, Japan elected to bat and were led by the in-form Hugo Tani-Kelly, as he and Nihar Parmar added 58 for the second wicket before the latter was run out for 33.

Tani-Kelly, who made a century against Sri Lanka in his side's opener, batted through the rest of the innings for a knock of 79 not out from 135 balls.

Naden Cooray made inroads in the Japanese batting lineup to finish with three for 31 from 10 overs.

Dominant Australia

Japan made 201 for eight from their 50 overs, and Australia made a quick start in the chase as Malajczuk and Nitesh Samuel put on a 135-run partnership for the first wicket.

Malajczuk was the aggressor, making the fastest fifty in U19 World Cup history with a half-century in 23 balls, before breaking the record for the quickest ton, using only 51 balls to get to three figures.

He was eventually caught in the deep for 102, having hit 12 fours and five sixes, to leave his side needing 67 runs from 34.3 overs.

Samuel carried his bat, making 60 not out as Australia sealed victory with 20.5 overs to spare to leave Australia second in Group A, behind Sri Lanka on run rate.

Brief scores: Japan: 201/8 in 50 overs (Nihar Parmar 33, Hugo Tani-Kelly 79, Montgomery Hara-Hinze 29; Will Byrom 2-32, Naden Cooray 3-21) lt to Australia: 204/2 in 29.1 overs (Will Malajczuk 102, Nitesh Samuel 60 n.o.) bt 8 wkts.

Chagall for main event

MUMBAI SELECTIONS

Pesi Shroff-trained Chagall, to be ridden by Siddharth, is fancied to win the Kailashpat Singhania Trophy, the feature event of the Mumbai races to be run over a mile at the races on Wednesday.

The first race starts at 1:30 pm.

1. A Hoyt Plate - 1200M: Ensky 1, Viennoise 2, Lara 3.
2. Ravishankar Gupta Salver (Div II) - 1600M: Caradoc 1, Abhyankar 2, Renoir 3.
3. Nadia Mary Homi Wadia Trophy - 1200M: Queen Of Beauties 1, Shaandaar 2, Caviar Queen 3.
4. Heritage Of Grooming Trophy - 1000M: El Moran 1, Flashman 2, Mojo 3.
5. Ravishankar Gupta Salver (Div I) - 1600M: Youreforfame 1, Tajiri 2, Brasilier 3.
6. Kailashpat Singhania Trophy - 1600M: Chagall 1, Opus Dei 2, Eagle Day 3.
7. Edgar Desylva Salver - 1400M: Bishop 1, Emperor Roderic 2, All For Love 3.
8. Dr AH Sayed Plate - 1400M: Chandrayaan 1, Mighty Hero 2, Lord Murphy 3.
Day's best: Bishop. **Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. **I treble:** 2, 3 & 4. **II treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

1st T20: India vs New Zealand (**7 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1**, **JioHotstar**.

U-19 World Cup: England vs Scotland, Afghanistan vs Tanzania (**1:00 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **Jio Hotstar**.

2nd T20I: Afghanistan vs West Indies (**8 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

FOOTBALL

Champions League: Qarabag vs Frankfurt, Galatasaray vs Atletico Madrid (**11:15 pm**), Chelsea vs Pafos, Marseille vs Liverpool, Slavia Prague vs Barcelona (**1:30 am**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**, **SonyLIV**.

TENNIS

Australian Open: Day 4 (**5:30 am**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**, **SonyLIV**.

HOCKEY

HIL: Tamil Nadu Dragons vs Ranchi Royals (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**, **SonyLIV**.

WRESTLING

PWL: UP vs Delhi (**8 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**, **SonyLIV**.

CRICKET FIRST T20I

One last test before the finals

Under-fire Suryakumar will be hoping to find much-needed form

NAGPUR, PTI

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav would want the attacking batter in him to front up and bolster his leadership against New Zealand when the five-match T20I series gets underway here on Wednesday, serving as a final dress rehearsal for India's World Cup title defence in less than three weeks' time.

Since Suryakumar took over as India's T20 skipper in 2024, the results have been stunningly good with a winning percentage of more than 72 per cent. It papered over the skipper's woeful form with the willow for quite a while but not anymore.

The Indian T20 outfit has been on autopilot mode during the last two years with an odd defeat here and there being small blemishes for a crack team made up of top quality IPL performers knowing their roles to the 'T'.

However, the pressure of playing at home amid expectations that India become the first ever team to defend its title will weigh heavily on Suryakumar's mind going into the New Zealand series.

New Zealand, in the past one year, has achieved many firsts, including a Test series whitewash and a first-ever bilateral ODI series win in India.

But when it comes to T20Is, India under Suryakumar have been a different beast having won 18 out of 25 games, largely due to Abhishek Sharma's blazing starts and Varun Chakravarthy's bamboozling performances in middle overs of opposition innings.

New Zealand have won 13 out of their 21 T20Is post the 2024 T20 World Cup.

With Devon Conway, skipper Mitchell Santner, world's premier T20I seamer Jacob Duffy and the duo of Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips in their ranks, New Zealand are as strong an opposition as one can expect.

It also means that the defending champions will get to make perfect World Cup preparations.

In this backdrop, it is Indian skipper Suryakumar, whose poor form has been the weak link of a formidable team.

Unarguably, 2025 was his worst in India colours with only 218 runs from 19 games without a single fifty and a strike rate of 123 plus.

It made matters worse that he got himself down to No. 4 in order to allow Tilak Varma to get a longer run at No. 3.

Bowlers across the globe have found out that straight deliveries at hard lengths can keep him quiet and conjectures about the state of his right wrist have only made things difficult.

Teams (From): India: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Ishan Kishan, Shreyas Iyer, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakravarthy, Rinku Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Ravi Bishnoi, Harshit Rana.
New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (captain), Devon Conway, Bevon Jacobs, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Tim Robinson, Jimmy Neesham, Ish Sodi, Zak Foulkes, Mark Chapman, Michael Bracewell, Rachin Ravindra, Kyle Jamieson, Matt Henry, Jacob Duffy, Kristian Clarke.

India v New Zealand in T20Is

	Mats	Ind	NZ	Tied
Before 2020	11	3	8	0
Since 2020	14	11	2	1
In India	11	7	4	0

Record in T20Is since 2025

India		New Zealand
21	Mats	22
16	Won	12
3	Lost	6
2	N/R	4
76.2%	Win%	54.6%

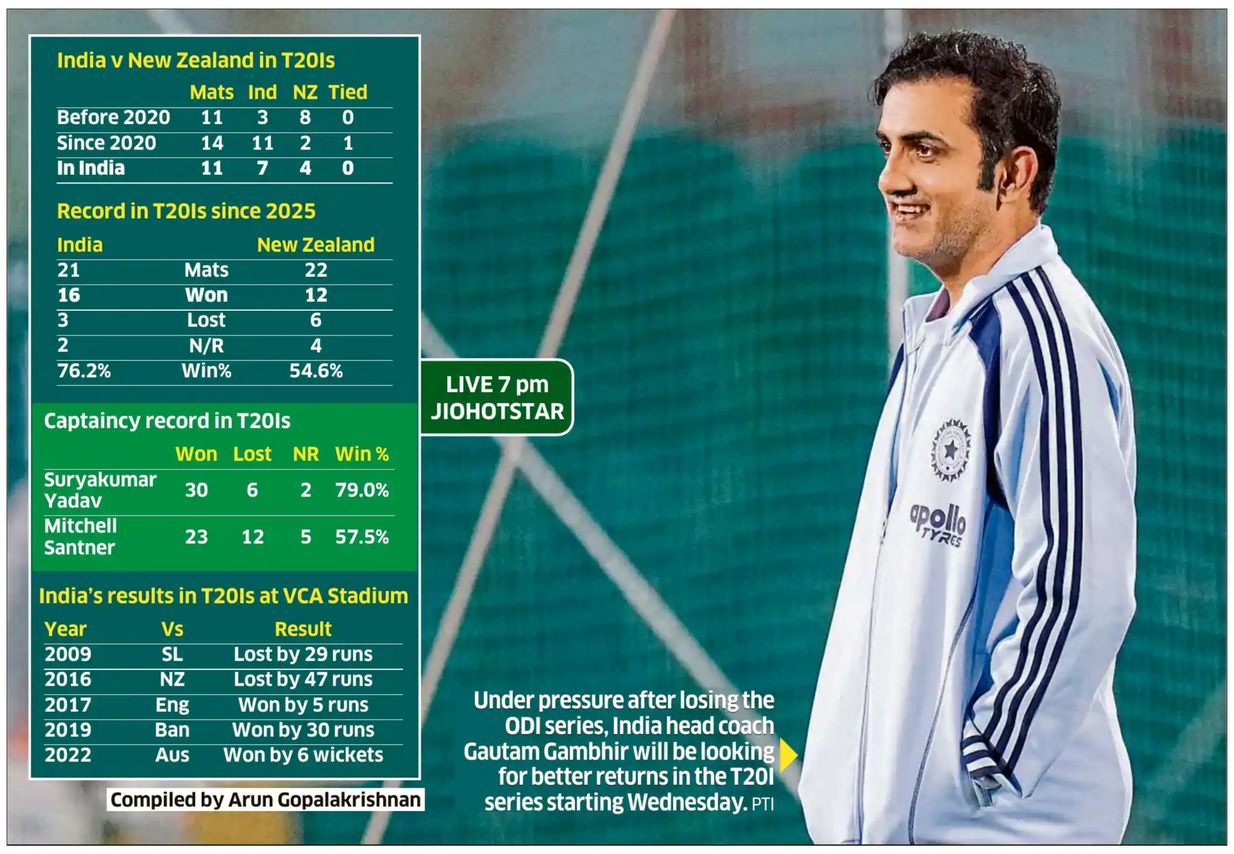
Captaincy record in T20Is

	Won	Lost	NR	Win %
Suryakumar Yadav	30	6	2	79.0%
Mitchell Santner	23	12	5	57.5%

India's results in T20Is at VCA Stadium

Year	Vs	Result
2009	SL	Lost by 29 runs
2016	NZ	Lost by 47 runs
2017	Eng	Won by 5 runs
2019	Ban	Won by 30 runs
2022	Aus	Won by 6 wickets

Compiled by Arun Gopalakrishnan

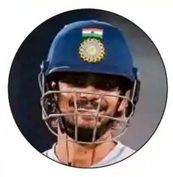


LIVE 7 pm JIOHOTSTAR

Under pressure after losing the ODI series, India head coach Gautam Gambhir will be looking for better returns in the T20I series starting Wednesday. PTI

Ishan to bat at No. 3: Surya

NAGPUR, PTI: Ishan Kishan **(in pic)** will play ahead of Shreyas Iyer in the series against New Zealand as he is a part of India's T20 World Cup squad and a like-for-like replacement for an injured Tilak Varma being a left-hander, skipper Suryakumar Yadav said on Tuesday.



Tilak, an automatic choice at number three has undergone an abdominal surgery and is ruled out of the first three games, starting here on Wednesday. This has allowed Iyer to make a comeback to the national squad for the first three games.

However, the skipper made it amply clear that Iyer is being looked at as a No. 5.

"Ishan will bat at number 3 because he is a part of our T20 World Cup team and he was picked in the squad first so it's our responsibility to give him a chance," he said in the pre-match press conference.

"He hasn't played for India for past one and half year and in the mean time consistently performed in domestic cricket," said the Indian skipper.

"Since he (Ishan) has been picked for World T20, he deserves to play ahead (of Shreyas).

Bangla firm on playing in SL despite ICC diktat

We will not bow to the pressure, says sports advisor

DHAKA, PTI

Bangladesh government's sports advisor Asif Nazrul on Tuesday reiterated that under no condition would the national team travel to India for the T20 World Cup, despite an ultimatum from the International Cricket Council to the Bangladesh Cricket Board on deciding their participation by January 21.

If BCB remains adamant on not travelling to India for the 20-team tournament, Scotland are likely to replace Bangladesh as per current rankings.

"I am not aware that Scotland will be included in our place. If the ICC bows to pressure from the Indian Cricket Board and tries to impose pressure on us by setting unreasonable conditions, we will not accept those conditions," Nazrul told reporters.

"In the past, there are examples that Pakistan said that they will not travel to India and ICC changed the venue. We have asked to change the venue on logical ground and we cannot be pressurised to play in India by putting illogical pressure," he added.

The crisis was triggered by the removal of Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman from Kolkata Knight Riders' roster for this year's Indian Premier League on BCCI's instructions for unspecified "developments all around".

Citing security concerns and national pride, the BCB responded by announcing its national team won't travel to India for its group stage games in Kolkata and Mumbai.

BCB wants to play each of the four group stage matches in Sri Lanka, where the marquee India-Pakistan clash will also be held as per the mutually agreed arrangement for ICC events until 2027.

Bangladesh are currently placed in Group C along with the West Indies, Italy, England and Nepal.

In their last meeting with ICC officials in Dhaka, the BCB had proposed swapping positions with Ireland in Group B, which features tournament co-hosts Sri Lanka, Australia, Oman and Zimbabwe.

Such a move would allow Bangladesh to remain in Sri Lanka for entirety of its group stage engagements.

While the BCB considers it unsafe for its players to travel to India, the ICC's risk assessment report did not flag any specific or direct threat to the team's participation in the World Cup.

Th bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh have deteriorated in recent months, exacerbated by the killings of Hindus in Bangladesh.

Capt Jemimah steers Capitals

VADODARA, PTI

Jemimah Rodrigues led from the front to anchor Delhi Capitals' tense run-chase with a gritty fifty, guiding her team to a much-needed seven-wicket win over Mumbai Indians in the Women's Premier League here on Tuesday.

Put in to bat on a slow surface, Mumbai Indians' struggles in the powerplay continued before Nat Sciver-Brunt played another blinder (66 not out off 45) to take her team to 154-5.

After a rather productive start provided by Lizelle Lee (46 off 28) and Shafali Verma (29 off 24), Delhi Capitals lost their way in the middle overs before Jemimah (51 not out off 37) calmed nerves in the dressing room by completing the chase in 19 overs.

Veteran Marizanne Kapp (10 not out off 6) provided the support that Jemimah needed at the other end and closed out the match with a six.

It was Delhi Capitals' second win in five games while Mumbai Indians suffered their fourth loss in six games.

"We really need to push when we are batting and bowling in the powerplay," said Mumbai Indians captain Harmanpreet Kaur after the loss.

In the powerplay, Shafali missed connecting a flatter one down the leg side from left-arm spinner Vaishnavi Sharma to see her stumps rattled.

Delhi Capitals' Jemimah Rodrigues (right) scored an unbeaten 51 to star in her team's win over Mumbai Indians in Vadodara on Tuesday. X

Women's Premier League Points Table

Teams	P	W	L	NRR	Pts
RCB (Q)	5	**5**	**0**	+1.882	**10**
MI	6	**2**	**4**	+0.046	**4**
UPW	5	**2**	**3**	-0.483	**4**
DC	5	**2**	**3**	-0.586	**4**
GG	5	**2**	**3**	-0.864	**4**

Brief scores: Mumbai Indians: 154/5 in 20 overs (Nat Sciver-Brunt 65 n.o., Harmanpreet Kaur 41, Shree Charani 3-33) lt to Delhi Capitals: 155/3 in 19 overs (Shafali Verma 29, Lizelle Lee 46, Jemimah Rodrigues 51 n.o.) by 7 wkts.
PoM: Jemimah Rodrigues

BCCI to simplify contracts by removing A+ category

NEW DELHI, PTI: The BCCI is set to streamline the players' central contracts by doing away with the A+ category introduced back in 2018.

As per the existing policy, a cricketer in A+ category is paid Rs 7 crore annually, Rs 5 crore in A, Rs 3 crore in B and Rs 1 crore in C.

In the yet to be announced retainers for 2025-26, players will only be bracketed in A, B and C category.

Only four players -- Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah **(in pic)** and Ravindra Jadeja -- were placed in the highest A+ category in the previous cycle.

Out of four, only Jasprit Bumrah remains an all format player. Kohli and Rohit play only the ODI format while Jadeja remains part of the Test and ODI set up having retired from the shortest format.

The central contracts will be ratified at the next Apex Council meeting. However, a BCCI official told PTI there would be no pay cut for someone like Bumrah who remains the leader of the pace attack in all formats despite missing games here and there due to workload management.

Considering that superstars Rohit and Kohli are one format players, they are likely to be placed in B category.

Google signs Rs 270 crore deal with BCCI

NEW DELHI, PTI: The BCCI has secured a lucrative Rs 270 crore sponsorship deal from Google's AI platform Gemini ahead of the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL).

Gemini's rival ChatGPT is one of the sponsors of ongoing Women's Premier League.

"The deal is for three years and reinforces IPL's global appeal," a BCCI official said.

Tata Group holds the title sponsorship rights for the IPL

The BCCI had to look for a new jersey sponsor last year when the Indian government banned real money gaming platforms like Dream11. Eventually, Apollo Tyres replaced Dream11.

MARUTI SUZUKI
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